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Cours bet fen long." Contain Containing WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 1997

WEATHER: Showers and cool westerly wind

(IR45p) 40p

And this, they say, is how to keep a healthy population of hares



This hare does not have a healthy two pursuing greyhounds in front of a

part in a token demonstration at what

future - in fact it has about 10 seconds crowd ofgawping spectators. Animal could be the last "Cup Final" of hare to live before being ripped to streeds by rights campaigners yesterday took coursing, the Waterloo Cup, in Altear, ject of a free vote on the banning of coursing helped preserve a "huge and

hunting with hounds. John Haigh of the British Field Sports Society claimed hare

The spectre of a human clone

Charles Arthur Science Editor Rupert Cornwell Washington

International calls for new laws to prevent the cloning of humans are growing, as the full implications of the cloning of a sheep by scientists in Edinburgh begin to dawn.

Some scientists even compared the possible effects on humanity to the atomic bomb, while President Clinton said the cloning of Dolly the sheep raised serious ethical questions, particularly with respect to the possible use of this technology to clone human em-Participants to report back to him in 90 days on the ethical and legal implications of the Edinburgh work.

Since the news first emerged on Sunday, the cloning breakthrough has enthralled the US. That same day the story led the New York Times, the country's most prestigious newspaper. Since these it has deminated television newscasts, provoked weighty leading articles and provided endless grist for the talkshows. The fascination partly reflects an obsession with scientific and medical news in a country where tenuous results from routine health studies make front-page headlines. But it is also a measure of the ethical and legal conundrums raised by the possible cloning of humans. In France Philippe

6 In the past few days, we have lived through a change in our condition as momentous as the Copernican revolution or the splitting of the atom 9

Andrew Marr. page 17

periments with nature. More-material benefits of the work showed up in a booming share price for PPL Therapeutics, which carried out the



Ethical conumbrance: Cloning enthralls the US but President Bill Clinton voiced concern over applying the technology to humans Photograph; Brian Hams

nology led to "monstrous" ex- morning, increasing its market termined - and very wealthy - have very restrictive laws on the the Human Fertilisation and funds cannot be used to fund re-However, the Roslin scien-

tists own no shares in the company, and will not benefit directly from their break-

person from spending millions of pounds to put dogether a cloning laboratory for their personal immortalisation.

The UK, Spain, Germany, Vasseur, the farm minister, raised the bizarre spectre of "six-legged chickens" and promised stiff new controls if the tech-Canada and Denmark have laws against cloning humans, as

use of cloning. But many countries do not. That has raised the possibility that publication tomorrow in Nature, the scientific journal, of the technique involved in using a cell from an adult sheep to produce Dolly do some individual states in the could be used to clone people. Professor Martin Johnson, of

Embryology Authority, said yesterday: "The important thing isn't to raise fears about what might go on here [the UK], but elsewhere. There's a general consensus that cloning people would be negative, but the legal framework isn't unified." In

the US, for example, federal

search on human embryos. But the position is unclear for pri-

vately-funded science. Joseph Rotblat, the British physicist who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995 after battling for years against nuclear weapons, said: "My worry is that other advances in science may

destruction, maybe more readily available even than nuclear weapons. Genetic engineering is quite a possible area, because of these dreadful developments that are taking place there."

It is still uncertain whether it would be possible to clone a human from an adult cell. Dolly was produced by taking a cell from an adult sheep and putting it into a "genetic coma". The nucleus and DNA of that cell was then put into an unfertilised egg from which the DNA had been removed, and the resultant cell implanted into a ewe.

In theory the same principle might work in humans. But it has failed in frogs and mice, because it is more difficult to put their cells into the required form of genetic coma. Scientists instead now want to try the technique on pigs and cows.

Professor Grahame Bulfield, director of the Roslin Institute, insisted yesterday that they would not allow cloning to be used in harmful ways, and especially not for work on humans. Instead, he said, the breakthrough could in the long term lead to a myriad of new ways to help humans. Herds of transgenic animals could be farmed for proteins, blood and organs. Gene therapy, with its ability to replace faulty genes with good ones, could provide

cures for fatal diseases It could take years for the technology to be proven and field-tested sufficiently to be licensed. But after that it could be worth millions of pounds annually, with a huge number of applications.

Labour will audit Treasury to see if Tories cooked the books

labour will order an indepen-ient audit of the nation's finances, if it wins in May, pecause it is suspicious that the Conservatives may bequeath a nidden economic time bomb. In a move which is likely to

zause hostility within the Treaantamount to an accusation that the books have been cooked, Gordon Brown would et up the audit as soon as he got into the Treasury. In a speech today, the shad-

ow Chancellor will set out the machinery for delivering the monetary policy, the low inflaion, the investment and the sus-tained growth he wants to He says that Labour "hates inflation", and wants sustained

growth, but that requires a hake up at the Treasury and the Bank of England to get rid of the instability generated by the "running displate" of the so-called Ken and Eddie soap opera. The most immediate reform

EXCLUSIVE

the setting up of an independent check on the legacy that would be left by the Conservatives. sury where it will be viewed as conscious of the hidden economic crisis inherited by Harold Wilson in 1964, after 13 years of Conservative rule, leading to a forced devaluation for which Labour took the full blame.

Labour is also aware that if it had won the last election, in it had won the last election, in 1992, it would have been excoriated by the Tories for the inevitability of steriors wall from the European exchange rate mechanism, and the minuliation of the subsequent plunge in the value of the point.

Labour, it planning a fill scale budget before Parliament breaks for its summer recess in

breaks for its summer recess in July, within 10 weeks of taking over from the Tories. But Mr. Brown will say today. We will

by Anthony Bevins

taken by Mr Brown would be fiscal projections are properly audited before the Budget. It was not clear last night e left by the Conservatives. Which independent group Labour leaders are acutely would carry out the audit, but onscious of the hidden eco-one senior Labour source said Mr. Brewn would insist on "kosher, credible figures" - the hard truth, independently ver-

ified, on borrowing, debt and expenditure programmes. Also, out will go the Treasury's current team of "wise people", who provide an independent assessment of government economic and monetary policy; a system condemned by Mr Brown as "haphazard."

Treasury advice would be cadened with a new Council of Economic Advisers, "reflecting a wider range of eco-nomic expertise". In an attempt to bolster the Bank's performance, Mr Brown would set up a Bank Monetary Policy Com-



nor, and including up to four outsiders brought in to en-hance the Bank's reputation. Mr Brown will say: "I have not hidden the fact that the par-

lous state in which the Government has left the public finances, with public borrowing at £26bn ensure that the Government's mittee, chaired by the Gover- this year ... will mean difficult

choices on public spending." He will say that the personalisation of the differences between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. and Editic George, Governor of the Bank of England, risked un-dermining the credibility of in-terest rate and inflation policy.

This risk has become a reality now that the argument between the Governor and the Chancellor is conducted through speeches and interviews on both sides."

In an attempt to show that he means business, Mr Brown will say: "Inflation undermines business success. It creates instability. It harms investment and the damage it does, as the experience of the late Eighties shows, takes years to undo. There is an additional reason why Labour hates inflation. The people who suffer most are those on fixed and low incomes, especially the elderly, the people who are least able to defend

QUICKLY

Plans to sell Tube

The Government announced that it would sell the London Underground, which ferries 2.7 million people around the capital every day. It insisted that money raised in the sale would be put back into the cashstrapped system. Deng's last farewell

The final legacy of Deng Xiaoping proved to be the freedom not to have to mourn him, as shoppers in Peking ignored a live transmission of his hour-long memorial ceremony broadcast from the Great Hall of the People where 10,000 senior party and government of-ficials gathered before a casket containing his ashes. Page 12

Alert over tests

A hunt began yesterday for up to 500 people who may have been given inaccurate tests for HIV in-fection, sexually transmitted diseases and cervical cancer by an unregistered doctor working in a clinic in south London. Page 5 Court martials unfair

Britain's court martial system is unfair and contravenes the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights found. Page 8

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THE TABLOID Bridget Jones: will she, won't she?

THE TABLOID Confronting Katharine Hamnett

INTERVIEW

Roy Jenkins: the trouble with Jack Straw PAGE 16

THE BROADSHEET

Sport 24-28 Concise crossword 34 Unit trusts 19 Fashion 8,9

significant shorts

Europe to investigate jail treatment of McAliskey

The European Parliament is to send a delegation to Holloway Prison to investigate complaints about the detention of Roisin McAliskey amid mounting international concern about her

The 25-year-old daughter of the former nationalist MP Bernadette Devlin is being held on remand pending extradition to Germany for questioning in connection with the IRA mortar attack on a British army barracks at Osnabrück last year. She is seven months pregnant but as a Category A high security prisoner, she is held in solitary confinement and is strip-searched daily.

The Irish government raised a formal protest about the conditions of her detention last week. Dick Spring, the Republic's foreign minister, called in the British ambassador in Dublin to demand that Ms Mc Aliskey be given bail and to insist that she is at least entitled to "basic decency" while in jail. The European Parliament's all party Civil Liberties committee yesterday agreed to send a three member delegation despite objections from a number of British MEPs.

Katharine Butler

Storms set to return by weekend

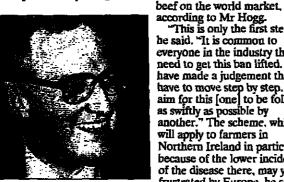
The tempest that tore across the country yesterday and on Monday night, causing 11 deaths and extensive damage, might return by the weekend, weather forecasters warned yesterday.

The London Weather Centre said the country is in the middle of a "very windy and unsettled weather system". "In two days these winds will be affecting the north of the country. In the meantime local features such as valleys and buildings will produce some very high gusts," said a spokesman. The violent storms during the past two days prompted fatal road accidents. They also caused flash floods and left fallen trees littering roads. Winds gusting up to 80mph were commonplace with the highest wind – of 90mph – recorded at Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire.

Matthew Brace

New proposal to lift beef ban

Douglas Hogg, the agriculture minister, yesterday put a new proposal to Europe aimed at lifting the ban on British beef. Under the proposal, meat and beef products from herds certified as BSEfree would be exported again. The Export Certified Herds Scheme is an important step along the road to the restoration of British



according to Mr Hogg.
"This is only the first step,"
he said. "It is common to everyone in the industry that we need to get this ban lifted. We have made a judgement that we have to move step by step. We aim for this [one] to be followed as swiftly as possible by another." The scheme, which will apply to farmers in Northern Ireland in particular because of the lower incidence of the disease there, may yet be frustrated by Europe, he said.

E.coli butcher prepares to re-open

John Barr, the butcher whose shop was linked to the E. coli 0157 outbreak in Scotland which claimed 18 lives, last night prepared to re-open for business on Thursday – and told of the "hell" he and his family had suffered.

But Paul Santoni, the lawyer for some of those hit by Europe's worst outbreak of the infection, called the re-opening "surprising". The decision to resume business was announced yesterday by Mr Barr's lawyer, George Moore, who said the butcher had worked closely with environmental officials and had received their agreement to open again. Mr Barr, 51, is awaiting trial on a charge of culpable and reckless conduct in relation to the alleged supply of

Billie-Jo foster father released

etectives numbing the killer of the 13-year-old schoolgiri billie-jo Jenkins have released her foster father Sion Jenkins on police bail to return in five weeks. Mr Jenkins, 39, was arrested on Monday in Hastings, West Sussex, and held for questioning

Billie-Jo was battered over the head with an 18-inch metal tent peg as she painted the patio doors in the back garden of her home in Hastings on 15 February. Mr Jenkins and his wife, Lois, held a press conference shortly after the killing on 15 February at which they said that their 10-year-old daughter was the first to discover the body of Billie-Jo.

Police to hold evidence longer

The police are to be forced to keep evidence from criminal cases for longer following the Bridgewater Four miscarriage of justice which was uncovered only after tests were made on 19-year-old evidence. The Government had planned to introduce a new law that would require police forces to keep all evidence for a minimum of three years. At present there are no time limits, But the Bridgewater case, in which three men spent 18 years in jail for a murder they did not commit, with another man who died while in prison, has prompted the Home Office to reconsider their

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BACK ISSUE Back teads of the Independent are available from Histonic Newspapers, talephone 01988 840370.



Sifiso at Heathrow with Mrs Stopford (left) and her daughter, Nicole (Photograph: Reuters)

Zulu boy allowed to stay in Britain with foster mother

Zulu boy who was brought up by a white foster mother in England but subsequently returned by the courts to his natural parents in South Africa. will stay in Britain, it emerged yesterday.

Sifiso Masango, 12, returned to Salome Stopford, the white woman he calls "Mother" last December, with the consent of his natural parents.

Mrs Stopford, 50, a widow who employed the boy's parents when she lived in South Africa, had cared for him since he was 18 months old. She brought him to Britain in March 1992 when she took British citizenship and his parents agreed, for the benefit of his education, on condition that they could visit him and that he maintained his South African links.

They began efforts to have their son returned after him. The decision that Sifiso should be returned to South Africa to live with his natural parents came at

an Appeal Court hearing last May.
Then, the Court of Appeal held that although the boy had lived in England and had known the Mrs Stopford who had brought him up as "Mother" he should be returned to his natural parents, in the Transvaal.

Siliso was eventually returned to South Africa after being removed from one flight at Heathrow airport because he was so upset. Mrs Stopford had remained in touch with the boy's parents, hoping that they would allow him to return, which they did after pressure from the boy himself, last December.

Since then he has not returned to South Africa and yesterday the case returned to the Family Division of the High Court. Mr Justice Kirkwood was told, in a private hearing, that agreement had been reached that Sifiso will, with his natural parents' consent, remain living with Mrs Stopford in Maida Vale, west London. Part of the agreement, however, is that he will re-

main a ward of the High Court. In a brief statement issued after the hearing, solicdiscovering in 1994 that Mrs Stopford had tried to adopt itors Mishcon de Reya, who acted for Siftso, said: "in December 1996 Siviso returned to this country to spend Christmas with Mrs Stopford and her family.

"It has now been decided, with the agreement of his natural parents, that Siviso should remain here and the court has granted a Residence Order to Mrs Stopford. However, Siviso will be visiting South Africa from time to time to keep in contact with his natural parents."

Couple reunited in Bafta award nominations

Ralph Flennes, star of the acclaimed new film The English Patient, and his estranged wife, Alex Kingston (right), star of ITV's adaptation of Moll Flanders, have both been nominated for Bafta awards, Britain's Oscars for film and television. Since thecouple split up, Fiennes has been roman tically linked with the actress Francesca Annis.

The English Patient, a wartime love story also starring Briton Kristin Scott Thomas, has been nominated for 13 British Academy awards - one more than the Oscar nominations earlier this month.

Its director Anthony Minghella is honoured in the best film, best director and best adapted screenplay categories. A spokesman for Mr Minghelia sald: "It really is a tremendous tribute to the effort everyone put in to making this film. It was a huge struggle."

The English Patient nearly did not get made because its finance disappeared a matter of days before filming in Italy began. Other film actors and directors

ter Vaughan and Chris Eccleston

Dustman's holiday in the hottest spot

A dustman threatened with death by rebels in war-torn Rwanda has returned to his Midlands home saying it was his dream trip. John McBride, of Kidderminster, Vorcestershire, picks out the world's troublespots for his holidays. But the 52-year-old - who has a 27-year history of travelling to dangerous places - said his trip to the Rwandan capital Kigali was the

closest he has come to death. "I thought El Salvador was bad, but it was a picnic compared to Kigali. Still, I'd go back there tomorrow if I could.

The middle-aged adventurer caught a bus from Kenya to Uganda, where he obtained a visa to enter the Rwanda, currently a war-zone. "Everybody warned me that I could be killed, but that just

got me more excited.
"In other civil wars, the fighters have worn uniforms, but over there they all wear the same rags so you just have to watch whose giving you funny looks."

The binman, who works for Wyre Forest district council, has visited El Salvador, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Guatemala and Cambodia.

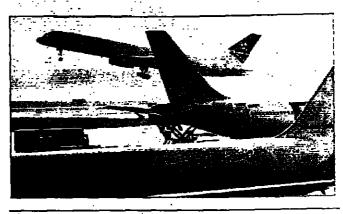
TRANSPORT

Air disasters to become commonplace, EU warns

One major air crash every week could be the norm within 20 years miless safety standards are improved, a European Parliament report warns. It points to an alarming rise in accidents and mid-air near misses in the last year, and says increasing demand for air transport threatens to undermine safety.

The report calls for the setting up of an EU Air Safety Board and the use of EU-wide transport guidance systems, its author. Conservative MEP Anne McIntosh; said: "Cheaper air fares must not come at the expense of passenger safety."

Her report, to be considered by the European Parliament's transport committee before going to Strasbourg for apprexal next month, says 1996 was a particularly bad year, with 75 fatal accidents worldwide, compared with an annual average of 66.2 throughout the 1980s. Deaths rose by 73 per cent to 1.59. compared with an average of 1,136 in the 1980s.



FOOD

Shoppers misled by packaging

Packaging which advertises the potential health benefits of particular foods is unhelpful to consumers and should be banned. research by the National Consumer Council claims today. The distinction between such unregulated claims and nutritional information - which is subject to statutory guidelines - is

irrelevant to shoppers, the NCC says. NCC chairman David Hatch said: "Far from helping people choose a healthier diet, our research shows that food claims may actually get in the way of consumers' understanding of what they eat." The NCC stressed the need for a rethink of food pack claims such as "helps maintain a healthy heart" or "can actively improve your digestion".

Consumers are often confused or misled by technical jargon. And the more information crammed on to a food pack, the mo likely shoppers are to switch off. Lists and tables are particularly impenetrable, says the report, Messages on Food.

PRISONS

Mental problems behind bars

Up to one in three male prisoners has mental problems, according to a report out today. One in four say they have deliberately harmed themselves, while one in 25 say that they have had a sever

The "worrying" statistics are highlighted in a report of a multi-agency team, the Wessex Group. It screened 1.300 incoming prisoners - 400 of them on remand - over three years at

The group's profile of a prisoner with mental health problems showed that he was more likely to have previous convictions; to be returning for an offence of violence; to have had drink or drug problems and to be facing homelessness on release.

State-to-private switch is costly

Switching welfare protection from the state to private insurance could result in millions of average and low-earners having to pay more from their cover. After analysing data from 10,000 adults looking at cover for mortgage payments, long-term care or to replace income during long-term sickness, researchers concluded that social security schemes may offer better value for money.

In the study, supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the authors found that, to cover himself in just these three areas, a 45-year-old married man with average earnings would typically have to new 10000 a seem a conjugate to 60 in the neutral or income tow.

to pay £900 a year - equivalent to 6p in the pound on income tax. Private Welfare Insurance and Social Security: Pushing the Boundaries, £13.45, York Publishing Services, 64 Hallfield Rd, Layerthorpe, York YO3 7XQ. Tel: 01904 430033 Glenda Glenda Cooper

SOCIETY

Asians back immigration laws

Most Asians in Britain feel the immigration laws are either fail or not tough enough, according to a poll published today. The verdict, from 61 per cent of those asked in a MORI poll for the Asian television channel, ZEE TV, explodes the myth that Asians fear crackdowns on asylum-seekers and immigrants.

The poll was the first time members of Britain's 1.5 millionstrong Asian community had been asked in detail about their political attitudes and allegiances.



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of

the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

Definitely a catch

shortlisted include director Mike

Leigh, and Brenda Blethyn and

Timothy Spall for Secrets and Lies, Sir lan McKellen for his title

role performance in Richard III, Shine star Geoffrey Rush and vet-

eran Paul Scofield for The Cru-

In the TV section Alex Kingston

is joined by Prime Suspect 5 star

Helen Mirren, Pauline Quirke for

The Sculptress, and Gina McKee

best actress TV category.

nominated.

for Our Friends In the North, in the

The BBC's Our Friends In the

North has been recognised twice

in the best TV actor slot, with Pe-

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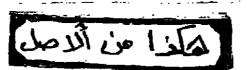
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End of the line for state-owned Tube

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Transport Correspondent

The Government yesterday sought to sweep away the last vestiges of a state-owned transport system when it announced that the London Underground

system would be sold off.

After relinquishing the state's hold over ports, airlines, motor industry and, most recently, the railways, the Government will privatise the world's oldest underground rail system. The move will return the system to private hands almost 60 years after it was nationalised.

Because of the poor state of the 255-mile network, Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, announced that the money raised by the sell-off would be ploughed back into the cash-strapped system which ferries 2.7 million people around London every day.

Built in the great rail rush of

the Victorian era, the Underground grew to be one of the wonders of the Edwardian age. Electrified by private capital before many nations had any railways, it has been run down by successive governments.

The sell-off is seen as a ma-

jor victory over the Treasury, which has opposed "ring fencing" privatisation proceeds. But Sir George convinced Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, that without the assurances the privatisation would have hit

Today, forced to survive on half the grant which it requires, the system is more a triumph of financial, than engineering, wizardry. The Underground has been plagued by shut downs,



The end of the line or a new beginning. An outof-commission tube train sits forlowly at On-

directors also revealed that the

ailing system would need £1.2bn

to clear the backlog of urgent-

ly-required work.

1994 of the six miles of track north of Epping. Now, however, there are plans to reopen it ungar Station in Essex - once the end of the der a scheme dreamt up by the entrepreneur

cash. London Underground's most of the money left over would be set aside for public the lines leased out. Sir George is also considering selling lines The Government is considindividually.

ering three options for pri-

vately own and run part of the line. Mr White, who pioneered the conversion and sale of disused red BT phone boxes, is awaiting govern-

would also be allowed to bid. White Paper this summer. The Government believes the policy will be a vote-winner. London's transport system would get a regulator that would oversee a new-look op-

The Prime Minister, John Major, said the move would give the capital a "world class" Tube network. But in the Commons, Tony Blair, the Labour leader, clashed with Mr Major, saying receipts from the sale of the

Photograph Brian Hamis Labour figures were last night holding talks with London Underground officials about Labour's pledge to find private

service on the disused section. Along with part-

investment for expansion on the Tube. One option would be to allow London Underground to fund projects by issuing bonds. This has enabled Hong Kong's "mass transit" system make

However, the proposals vatising the Underground. One of bidders. Stagecoach, the bus mean that the system will not re-ceive any more cash until it is control option, favoured by Tory Cen-tral Office, would be to sell it and rail giant, and Railtrack, which already owns Britain's caused by old cables and worn mean that the system will not reerator, the popular go-anywhere Travelcards would be out signalling. track, stations and signalling, as a single business. Tube might go into the Treasury coffers. Labour called the sell-Last week, the funding crisis forced Tube managers to shelve more than 200 schemes, owing privatised. retained; and private managers forced Tube managers to shelve Sir George said the sale promore than 200 schemes, owing ceeds would help clear that to the lack of Government backlog within five years, and with a "Inbetrack", owning the privately opposed to the sell-off, sell-off will be outlined in a bility" off an "abdication of responsi-

There would be no shortage

Network built on the greed and nerve of a robber baron

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ck immigration laws

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING The print proper make up 112 b The Press matter of the newspite un often fared fraid at 1996

Sir George Young's amouncement that London Underground is to be privatised was met by a predictable chorus of op-position from Labour MPs, union lead-

ers and commuter organisations.
Yet there is nothing new about developing the Thibe with private money. The modern electric underground network owes its origins to the greed and sheer nerve of an American buccaneer called Charles Tyson Yerkes, who arrived in London in 1900 to cash in on what he saw as the huge untapped monopoly of a modern transport system in a great

Yerkes, who had already served a jail term for embezzlement, was fleeing from the authorities in Chicago, where he ran the streetcar system for 15 years, but had also run into debt and the Mafia.

His business maxim had proved to be his undoing: "The secret of success in my line of work," he would say, "is to buy old junk, fix it up a little, and unload it

onto other fellows."

The "robber baron", as he was known, arrived in London at the age of 63, with a vision and a mistress. His vision was to take the capital out of the steam and horse age into the electric era, and to cash in on rising property values by extending his lines into the rapidly ex-

panding suburbs. Yerkes settled in the Waldorf to drum up investment, while his 23-year-old mistress, for whom he had once bought a bed from the King of the Belgians costing \$80,000, set up in the Savoy, where it is said that she became a model for more than one Henry James heroine.

Yerkes electrified the loss making Dis-trict Line, ordered new carriages mod-

elled on American trams and cut back nationalisation and merger with the on the seating to cram in more passengers. Tube carriages are still known by the American name "cars" because of their Yerkes origins. His power station built at Lots Road in Chelsea is the one that still supplies (and frequently cuts off)

the entire London Underground today. He bullied and cajoled his backers into providing the cash to build the great Tube lines - the Bakerloo, the Piccadilly and the Northern line. The Piccadilly, opened in 1906, was his great glory - the

longest in the capital and the first with an escalator. A man with a wooden leg was paid to ride it all day long to prove to a sceptical public that it was safe.

Before that the money had run out, and Yerkes was not to live to see the heyday of the private Underground company, which eventually ran all the lines except the Metropolitan until

buses in 1933. The cost of burrowing under the Hampstead hills to build the Northern line had proved too great and he died in 1905. His creditors reclaimed his Park Avenue house in New York and the Yerkes Observatory on Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, which he had ordained

should contain the largest telescope in

An eminent railway historian wrote of him: "His interest in railways as railways was absolutely nil. He neither knew nor cared about the day-to-day methods of operation, safety methods and such like. His sole and only concern was the accounts". It is on to Yerkes' railway, substantially unchanged in any of these respects, that MPs step every day at Westminster station as they make their way to and from the House.

Tube lines

The famous London Underground logo – a circle with a bar running through it – was introduced in 1905 by the London General Omnibu

Company.
Travelcards, which allow virtually unframelled travel in the capital and now considered sential by Londoners, were introduced in 1983.

in 1994, London Transport reported its first annual operating profit - of £5m. The Tube's 11 lines carry more than 2.5 million people along 266 stations every day. It reaches out into Buckinghamshire in the north, Essex in the east, Surrey in the south and

eathrow Airport in the west.

Mixed reaction to Tory plans

David Garfinkel

Tory plans to privatise the Tube received a mixed reaction from London travellers yesterday. Passengers on the District Line at Bow Road in the East End echoed Labour sentiments that a privatised network would soon collapse, as public assets were sold cheaply and

investment delayed. Michael Shneck, 23, a marketing assistant, believed the policy would kill off the Government's re-election hopes. "If they privatise the system, investment will slowly dry up, and when that happens the tube will probably end up closing down

altogether," he said. The Government was simply passing the buck, said Alexan-der Middleton, 79, from Whitechapel. "The plans stink. They have let the service become so run down over the years, that now the only thing they can do is relinquish all responsibility for it.

They have got all the money in the world for guns and bullets, but when it comes to simple things that the public want investment in, like the Under-ground and NHS, they have

In the City, where stations are generally cleaner and services more frequent than in the suburbs, passengers were less scathing of the Tory plans. Rush-hour professionals generally agreed that if investment was guaranteed, then privatisation might be a solution especially as London Underground is faced with budget cuts of £700m over the next three

Lucy Green, 29, a merchant banker, said the problem with private ownership is that assets are sold off too cheaply. "If they could ensure money was put back into the system then it might work. "But surely the end result of a scheme like this is hemselves," she said

Constance Abeng, 25, a postgraduate student, said the Tube had deteriorated in the last few years. "Why can't the Gov-ernment find the money to update the system themselves. I preferred it seven years ago when it was a cheap, effective and simple way to travel."

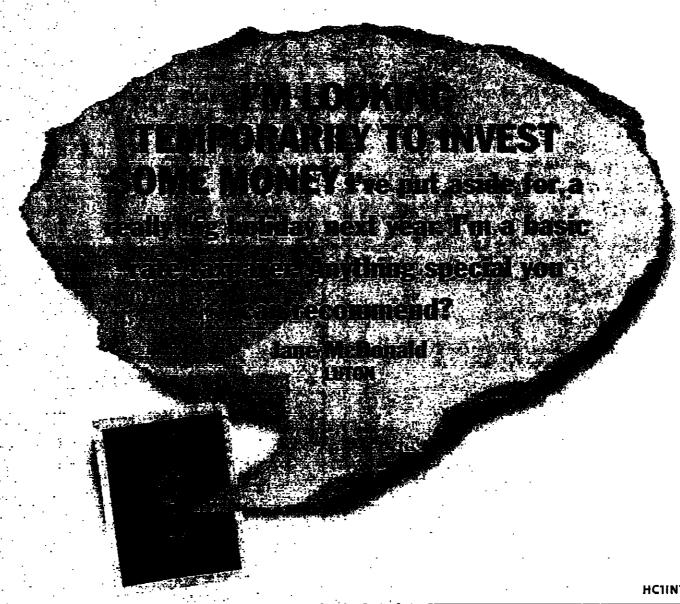
At the end of the line in the Tory heartland of Richmond, travellers gave their blessing to the Government's policy, as they saw private enterprise as

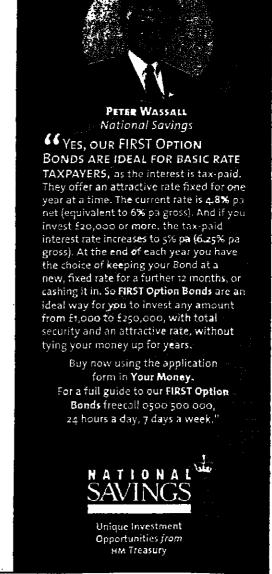
the last hope for the service.

John Irvine, a manager at BT, said: "If that is what it takes then it is a good thing. I think the Underground does its job, and compared to other countries we have a good system - but there is certainly room improvement.



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PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS SCORING THE EXCHANGES

Major refused to step into the ring with Blair Major over Tube privatisation, referring him to Sir George Young's imminent statement. His only jab at Blair was to compare his attitude to privatisation with that of North Korean President Kim II Sung.

Топу When Major refused to answer a narrow question, Blair tried a broader one, and then a Blair broader one still. The narrow ones were pertinent, but Blair might have concentrated on just one to better effect.

THEMES OF THE DAY

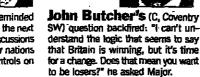
· Defence of Sir Edward Heath by Labour MPs, (Barry Sheerman, Lab, Huddersfield: Dale Campbell-Savours, Lab, Workington) Privatisation of London Underground (Sir Michael Shersby, C. Uxbridge Tory splits on Scottish devolution (John Home Robertson, Lab, East

· Cloning Dolly the sheep (Chris Davies, LD, Littleborough and Saddleworth)

Earlier yesterday, the Chancellor had pledged to use some profits from the Tube sell off to reduce the public sector debt. Blair highlighted the contradiction between this and Transport Secretary Sir George Young's pledge that any proceeds would be invested in transport. Major hid behind the imminent Commons statement on the issue and declined to answer. Blair went on to broaden the attack: "what happens if the proceeds do not cover the investment requirement?" With a little more justification. Major again told him to wait for the Statement.



Chris Davies reminded the House of life beyond the next election, asking what discussions were planned with other nations to ensure adequate controls on



that Britain is winning, but it's time for a change. Does that mean you want to be losers?" he asked Major. THE QUIP OF THE DAY Home Robertson on Tory splits on the constitution: "Can he remember when his two predecessors [Baroness Thatcher



he appears to disagree with both of them? And is he ab-solutely sure that Britain's fossilised constitution is the securest ground to choose for Major's last stand?" THE UNANSWERED QUESTION Sheerman referred to Conservative criticism of Sir Edward Heath's recent comments on Government policy: "Does he agree with me that such attempts to vilify the Father of the House actually do great damage to the democratic process?"

Major replied that Sir Edward had "had a long and distin-

guished career, and we both admire him and are fond of

and Sir Edward Heath] last agreed with each other about anything, and how has he got himself into the position where

THE CREEP OF THE DAY

The plethora of questions on plans to privatise London Underground would not have been complete without an endorsement of previous privatisation's from a Tory back bencher. Shersby obliged: "Would my Rt. Hon, friend agree that the privatisation of British Rail has been a great success? It was so successful that it has confounded its critics."

Compiled by Ben Sunn

there are nine weeks to go here at the Dunlegislatin resthome, before the electorate gives someone a mandate for a whole new set of policies. Many of the inmates here are readying themselves for extinction, others to meet glory in more agreeable ways. All agree that - for the time-being at least - their innovating days are over. All it seems, except for Sir George Young, the Secretary of State for Transport, , who yesterday made a statement to the House on the Government's proposals for the future of London Underground.

Sir George is a phenomenon. With his gentle voice, slightly distressed expression, immense height and thinness, he looks like the descendant of a Victorian union between an adventurous aristocrat and a giraffe. Found in the jungle, like Tarzan of Greystoke before him, he has come to Britain to start a new life. That is why he has trouble with those funny ticket machines at tube stations - they don't have them on East African plains.

This loftiness might also explain why Sir George has failed to notice that there is an election pending, and thus no chance of this Parliament deciding anything about London Underground.

As a result, he is in danger of asking his civil servants to do a lot of expensive work, of hiring a large number of extremely wellpaid consultants, and forcing London Underground into numerous emergency management seminars with sharp-suited trainers - all for nothing.

Law of the jungle goes Underground

Or could it be that - far from not being aware of the election the charcoal giraffe is aware of practically nothinglelse? That he, along with his cabinet colleagues - having devoured all the tasty leaves at the bottom of the privatisation tree - is now forced to stretch his neck as far as possible in order to nitible at the topmost, scrubbiest foliage? (Not even nibble, indeed, but merely promise to nibble if re-elected). That what he is doing is employing a whole ministry to undertake a feasibility study for the onservative election manifesto – at taxpaver's expense?

his words "mind the gap" between his radical proposals in all tracting investment to the Tabe, and Labour's rather hapeful. ideas for nice partnerships between kind businesses and write service providers, which will magic money into the system.

Not that Andrew Smith, the shadow Transport Secretary, raised the question of the giraffe's timing. Small, tan-haired and bec-tle-browed, Mr Smith has a voice problem, which is all the more noticeable since he sits next to the greatest classical actress of her generation - Glenda. The words "nasal" and "high" do was!! justice to the grating timbre and unusual production of Mr Smith's vocal output. His tones emerge with difficulty from a point just between his eyes and - as he becomes agitated - seem to project themselves from the top of his head.

Mr Smith compensates for this by rattling his words out with great speed, ensuring that there are plenty of hyperbolic damnations - on the principle that if you miss a dozen or so. you still won't lose the thread. The overall effect vesterday was

that of an angry meerkat doing its yappy best to tear the intout out of his lanky and largely oblivious opponent.

But Sir George is an unflappable beast. How could anything worry a man who can simultaneously state that he has no idea. whether the tube system should be sold off as one, or spill up-and yet can promise that pensioners' concessionary fares will Certainly sir George was very keen that electors should, in exist in perpetuity? On second thoughts, an election might.

Heseltine predicts 60-seat victory

Deputy PM expects by-election protest vote

A Conservative Commons majority of more than 60 seats and the Liberal Democrats. after the general election was predicted by Michael Heseltine, the deputy prime minister, in Wirral South yesterday, after he had repeated his warning that the Tories could expect a protest backlash in tomorrow's

Conservative strategists, who appear to have written off the previously safe Tory seat, believe John Major has a good chance of holding on to office in a May

While Mr Heseltine said in the Wirral village of Thornton Hough that the Tory majority in the election would be "60 and nudging up", party strategists said a "lesser win" would be enough - a hung parliament in which the Conservatives remained the largest party but without an overall majority. In that event, one senior

Conservative said Mr Major would seek to govern with the support of Ulster Unionist MPs. Labour would fall apart in a bout of acrimonious blood-let-

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ting, and Britain could well go
into the 21st century with the this country's economy in one Tories facing a newly created alliance of moderate Labour I can remember and when faced

Forecasting an unexpected risk that prosperity, they will not Tory win in the general election, vote for the Labour Party." as opposed to the drubbing expected by everyone for the Tories in Wirral South tomorrow, Mr Heseltine told The Independent: "You have made this mistake before.

You are confusing the decision about who governs the country in a general election and the protest that people indulge in, in other circumstances, either with polisters or by-elections, whatever it may be."

Mr Heseltine said at the start of the campaign that there was a by-election "culture" in which the voters kicked the Government party. But he said yesterday that

there was a totally different cul-ture in general elections. People ask different questions in these two alternative cir-

cumstances. When people go to vote in a general election they know that the consequence of that vote is to elect for five years

of the most exciting prospects with a Labour Party that would

The distinction between this week's by-election and the general election was being stressed. heavily by senior Conservatives yesterday. They argued that they remained firmly in the running for victory in May's election contest.

. It was argued that the polls were being misinformed, because being a Conservative was more unfashionable than it had been in 1992, and people were therefore reluctant to disclose their real voting intentions to the pollsters: a Labour victory would require an unprecedented swing, and Tony Blair would need to win more than 60 seats to overcome the Tory majority and the boundarychange hurdles, all at a time when the economic climate was "more favourable than it has ever been before".

In addition, one source said. Labour could lose seats in Scotland and the Liberal Democrats could also lose seats in Scotland

The source said even if there was a "lesser win", with a hung parliament that left Mr Major in office, that would be enough. because the "golden boy lure" of Mr Blair would have been destroyed and a realignment of the left forced, which would wipe out the last vestiges of Labour's

Mr Major, it was said, would have defied the pundits by winning the election at all.

One confident Tory source made the point yesterday that after the last election, The independent carried a cartoon showing Mr Major driving a fairground dodgem, with Labour and the Liberal Democrats standing to one side, asking when it would be their turn. The Prime Minister was telling them: "We're not playing turns anymore."



Mr Heseltine with Wirral South Tory candidate Les Byrom

Photograph: Jason Bye

Tories snap up directorships

Political Correspondent

Ex-ministers and Conservative MPs who are leaving the Commons at the general election have taken on a raft of directorships and public posts to fill their time, the latest Register of Members' Interests has re-

High on a list of 15 retiring Tories who have taken on new outside interests since the last register was published 10 months ago are Kenneth Baker, the former Home Secretary, John Patten, the former Education Secretary and Tim Renton, the former Chief Whip.

Mr Patten, who is giving up his Oxford West and Abingdon seat, has become a non-ex-

McAlpine PLC.

Mr Baker has added a non-

executive directorship of Milleanium Chemicals Incorporated to his existing list of five seats on boards, and has become an adviser to Mercury PLC on the worldwide cable industry. He already advises ICL, and the Harris Parliamentary Panel, though his fee from Harris is sent to a drugs charity of which he is patron. He has also become honorary chairman of

the Museum of British History. Mr Renton, who holds a directorship and two consultancies, has become chairman elect of the Sussex Downs Conservation Trust. A former arts minister, he accepted free tickets to the Royal Opera House, to

Glyndebourne and to Wimble-

don last year. Richard Needham, a former Northern Ireland and trade minister, already lists four directorships, a consultancy and membership of Lloyds' in addition to shares in a packaging company. John Butcher, a former education minister, has become a non-executive director

of Pertemps recruitment agency. Other Conservative MPs who have taken on new directorships in the run-up to retirement include Sir Julian Critchley, the member for Aldershot, Sir Michael Marshall, member for Arundel, Robert Banks, member for Harrogate, Patrick Mc-Nair-Wilson, member for New Forest and Dudley Fishburn,

member for Kensington.

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Derek Foster, the shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, criticised the Conservative MPs for taking on new jobs. The rats are fleeing the sinking ship. Just weeks before the election, outgoing Tories are leaving no stones unturned in their search for lucrative junkets

in their Parliamentary afterlife." he said. Tony Blair, who last year received gifts of a Fender Stratocaster guitar from the British Phonographic Industry and a rug from Benazir Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, this year had to make do with cuf-flinks from the South African Chamber of Business. This year, Ms Bhutto chose to give a rug to the Liberal Democrat leader. Paddy Ashdown.

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· Patients alerted after HIV tests by bogus doctor

97 . THE INDEPENDENT

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A hunt began yesterday for up to 500 people who may have been given maccurate tests for HIV infection, sexually transmitted diseases and cervical cancer by an unregistered doctor. Health service executives urged clients of Iketam Clinical

Laboratory Services in Balham, south London, to seek help immediately after Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, wrote to GPs warning that the laboratory's diagnoses may be incorrect.

The health alert centres

round inquiries which have established that Nigerian-born Godwin Onubogu, 56, who was practising at the laboratory, is not a registered medical

In a joint statement, the South Thames NHS Executive and the Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth Health Authority, alleged yesterday that Mr Onubogu ran Iketam as a private concern for nine years, offering testing and advice on various conditions, including sexually transmitted diseases and HIV infection".

In his alert to doctors, Dr Calman said: "Some patients may need counselling. Others may

ese-genito urmary laboratory did not conduct medicine clinics as they may have been inaccurately diag-

nosed as having gonorrhea.

"Others may have had HIV tests, the results of which may not be reliable, and may need referral to HIV services". He said those affected may not be limited to the Balham area but could hail from other parts of London, the South-east or even abroad. Dr Sue Atkinson, director of

public health at the executive, said: "We are concerned about the information that some people may have been given by Mr Onubogu and so we are trying to contact his chents and former clients to alert them to the need to seek professional medical advice. The best route for this would be through their GP.

"Iketam is not an NHS laboratory, so we do not have details of the clients. The police ... have the names and addresses of some clients. We have given the police letters to enclose with the ones they are sending to these people. This still leaves many clients who we cannot contact and who may not live in the local area."

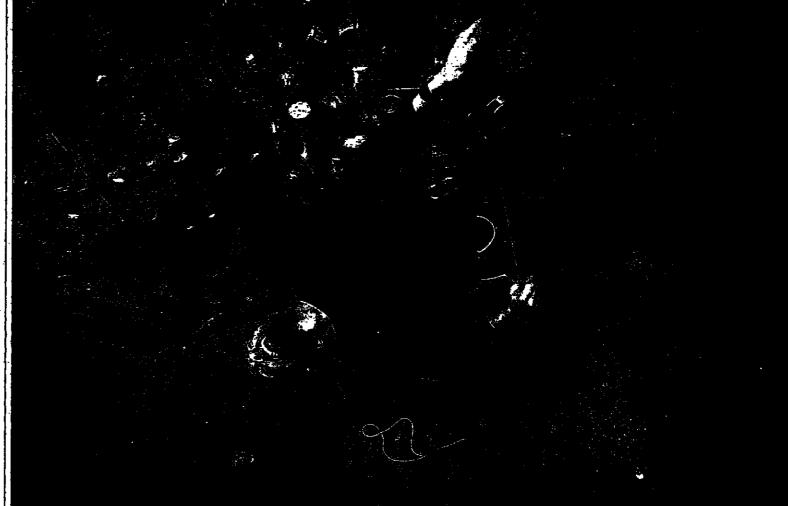
The NHS executive said only people who actually visited Iketam's premises at Swan House, 207 Balham High Road, needneed referral to sexually trans- ed to seek further help as the

diagnoses on samples sent from other doctors.

"We don't want to cause a panic among people who have had HIV tests and may worry that their tests were sent off to this laboratory - they weren't," said Kate Wilcox, a spokeswoman for the NHS executive. "We only want to contact peo-ple who visited the premises. Obviously, this is going to be an anxious time for some people, but we would urge them to contact their GP as soon as

"Iketam was a private laboratory, so it was nothing to do with us. We are involved because it has become a matter of public health."

The health authorities have set up a helpline, on 0800 174846, for anyone who has received treatment, testing or diagnosis at the Iketam laboratory. It is understood the facility is now closed.



Stiding scale: The American tenor, Thomas Randle, absells down a 90ft face at The Castle Climbing Centre, north London, yesterday in preparation for the English National Opera production of The Country of the Blind, based on a story by HG Wells Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Schools chief attacks the 'me' culture

A national culture based on self-rather than being actively gratification and the description of the Protestant work class on the Protestant work class on the Holland, Permanent Secamong the main segment for poor educational scale of the Chief in spector of Schools, said last schools priority should be such to the protestant of the pr

In his annual lecture, he recalled that the grammar school that he attended had been underpinned by belief in fortitude and the understanding that pain and adversity should be confronted with courage. "Thirty years on we live in a society which neither mentions nor believes in anything resembling fortitude: a society characterised by what is a narcissistic

pre-occupation with self." He complained of the everincreasing reliance on therapists and counsellors to bolster selfconfidence. In such a climate, pupils were unwilling to submit themselves to hard work and to persevere in the face of failure.

"Is it surprising that swim-ming against an aspect of the cultural tide which militates to read. against the very psychological condition upon which education depends our teachers find it dif-ficult to keep affoat?"

Society's refusal to admit that objective knowledge exists was linked to our longing for painless gratification, he said.

Two weeks ago at a teachertraining conference, he said, "one professor of education stated with breathtaking cer-tainty that it is now absolutely clear that there is no such thing as objective knowledge". Such views were responsible

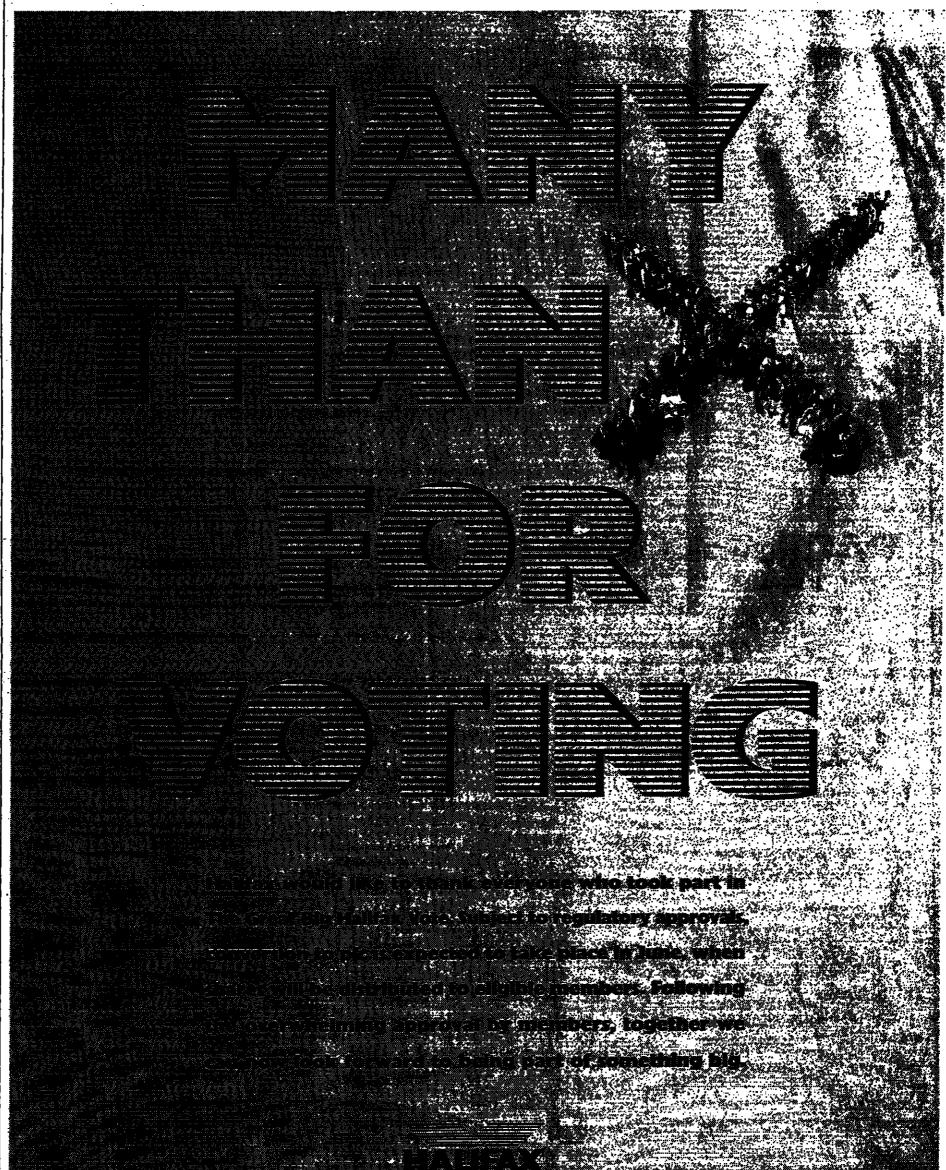
children should be encourage to discover things from themselves

'learning not teaching". The nature of our national culture, he said, went a long way to explain why we were finding it so difficult to murture the schools we needed.

But teachers must take their share of the blame. He snoke of the "orthodoxies" held by teachers and academics which were blocking improved standards. Too many teachers still subscribed to the old discovery methods and refused to accept that it was their job to pass on

a body of knowledge to pupils. He pointed to white-working class communities which had lost faith in education, partly because there were no jobs for them but partly because their children had not been taught in

■ Studying music and art could help children do better at maths and reading the Government's: curriculum chief said yesterday. Speaking at a conference in London on arts in the curricuhum, Dr Nick Tate said studies in the United States, showed that pupils aged 4 to 11 improved by more that 80 per cent in the three Rs over two years after receiving special tuition in the arts. Research has found the "mental stretching" involved boosted their abilities in basic



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Labour plans to outlaw gazum

Political Correspondent

Gazumping - on the increase again as house prices begin to rise - would be outlawed under a Labour government, the party's environment spokesman said vesterday.

Frank Dobson announced that sellers who reneged on a deal because they had a better offer could find themselves facing the bill for their original purchaser's legal fees, survey costs and mortgage arrangement

expenses.

Mr Dobson said yesterday that there was now evidence of increasing house prices bringing a return to the phenomenon which was common during the housing boom of the 1980s. There should be protection for buyers so that they did not waste their money and then lose the house of their choice, he

suggested. Under Labour's scheme, which is being put out for consultation, the "jilted" party would be paid compensation if an agreement was broken. This would apply even if the purchaser pulled out because of a bad survey report or because they had found themselves in a "chain" which collapsed.

binding, though Mr Dobson said he tended to think it should

and if so, who should hold it.

lished by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, but it added that a seller or buyer who pulled out without good reason should be subjected to punitive fines. These would force them to pay interest at 5 per cent above base rate on the value of the property for the period from the deal being struck until it was broken. However, a spokesman for

the institute welcomed Labour's plans. "We think that difficult," he said.

asked to lodge a deposit to cover costs if they should pull out, Mr Dobson said the current

government had no policies to help people to cope with negative equity, with mortgage arrears or with repossessions, and it was now failing to deal

with gazumping.
"At the last election, John Major promised to make life easier for people buying their home. But his record shows he has no answer to the problems of house buyers, whether house prices are rising or falling.

The process of buying a house is one of the most stressful things that a family can encounter. So the government should try to have in place a system which keeps that stress to a minimum," he said.

A similar scheme was pub-



hen a frothy market bubbles into broken promises

Anna Bennett

Sellers who wait for highest bidder can leave others in dire straits

ever, the vendors' vendors, at the top of the chain, received a bid

our house, so the chain collapsed," Mr Salmon said. He is left with the bitter knowledge that his own home would have risen sharply in value in the six months since they sold it. "And we have

nowhere to live." According to Alicia Casin gena, senior negotiator at Keith Cardale Groves estate agents in Belsize Park, north London, experiences such as the Salmons' almost unheard of since the 1980s - have become increas-

ngly common in the past year. People are getting gazumped here because we have a huge influx of foreign buyers, around 50 per cent, who are coming in with cash. The local buyers are on a budget ... and the foreign buyers are putting the money on the table. People don't care who they sell to if they're getting £10.000-to-£20,000 more," she said.

She welcomed the possibility of compensation for gazumped onyers. "You can't help but build up a rapport with a fam-ily and when they get gazumped it is upsetting. This proposal wouldn't change the market, but it would be a bit of compensation," Ms Casingena said.

The National Association of

fected by gazumping, about 5 per cent of all sales. The problem is worse in London and in the South-east where 10 per cent of sales is affected, but increasing levels of gazumping are also being reported in Birmingham and Manchester. Lindsay Cuthill, a director of Savills in Fulham, said that there was "definitely room" for some sort of legislation, but added that vendors were not the

only ones at fault when it came to pulling out of sales. When the market is as frothy as it is, all sides are out for what they can get," he said. "Very often purchasers float into your office. They think they'll make an offer ... Then they have to wait a week while their mum comes to look at it, they haven't got their mortgage organised. There are lots of reasons why the vendor shouldn't

be completely tied in.' Fiona McIntosh, 26, was gazumped by £10,000 despite agreeing that the vendor, a 67year-old woman, could stay in the property until she found a new one. Her agreement had been verbal, as she had assumed that the woman would stand by her word.

Today, she says, she would not make the same mistake. "Today's society revolves around money, and nothing, to 50,000 sales last year were af- will, is going to change that."

Crowded jails ready to blow'

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

Britain's iails are becoming a powder keg that could blow at any time and place", the prison officer's leader has warned after calling for an urgent meet-

ing with management. David Evans, general secre-tary, of the 27,000 strong Prison Officers' Association, has written to Richard Tilt, directorgeneral of the Prison Service, to express his concern about the security and safety of jails in England and Wales. He says the crisis has been heightened by a dramatic increase in the jail

population to a record 60,000. Mr Tilt has agreed to discuss the issue next week and has set up a special meeting next mouth to examine the problems

caused by over-crowding.
Mr Evans wrote to Mr Tilt
last week on behalf of the POA's National Executive Committee to express "their anxiety and concerns over the increas-

the safety and security of every one working within penal institutions and indeed, the degeneral public."

The committee's warning follows the publication of a POA report earlier this week which claimed security at Broadmoor special hospital is at "breaking point". The report was sent to

Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health. The Prison Service is trying to gain permission to moor a floating jail off Portland, Dorset, and conven a former Pontin's holiday camp, near Morecambe Bay, Lancashire, into a make-shift prison, to ease the crisis. Mr Evans added the Prison Service had shed 900 staff last year: "Now they are having to launch a massive recruitment programme. That's a

crazy kind of management." He warned there was a growing sense of unease in many prisons. "It has become a powder keg that could blow at any time and place".

ing prisoner population.

A Prison Service spokeswoman, said: "The directormeeting with you to discuss this general has taken the letter issue as it impacts greatly not seriously and has agreed to only on the penal estate but on meet and discuss the issue."

DAILY POEM

The Two of Them

By Hugo-von Hofmannsthal (translated by Keith Bosley)

She bore the goblet in her hand -Her chin and mouth curved like its lip; So light and steady was her gait The goblet did not even drip.

So light and steadfast was his hand: Upon a quick young horse he rode And with a careless gesture he Mastered it till it trembling stood.

But when he was about to take The same light goblet from her hand It was too heavy for them both: The two of them began to quake, Till hand by hand could not be found And dark wine sput upon the ground.

This poem appears in Eve Blassom Has Wheels: German love poerry, selected and translated by Keith Bosley (Libris, £10.95), which includes lyrics that range in date from Wolfram von Eschenbach in the 13th century to Erich Kästner in the 20th.
The notes also refer to songs taken from the poems: "The Two of Them", for instance, was set by Arnold Schoenberg in 1899.



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MoD braced as judges outlaw courts martial

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

The Ministry of Defence faces tion after the European Court of Human Rights declared yestial system violated the right to

The Strasbourg judges unan-Falklands veteran, Alex Findlay. 36, who held colleagues hostage at gunpoint when suffering post-traumatic stress disorder.

The court martial which ended his Army career breached Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees a fair hearing by an independent tribunal.

law. Going into battle is an

discipline is designed to ensure that the fear of failure

or punishment is greater than ear of the enemy.

Until the 19th century

severe punishments, including flogging and death arbitrarily. Therefore, trial by court martial has traditionally

command, rather than

commanders could impose

been linked with the chain of

functioning as a separate judicial process. The strictes code of all was in the Navy.

where ships' captains had

absolute power even greater

than that of their counterparts

in the Army and, later, RAF.
Traditionally, even minor
infractions of discipline could

result in a court mertial, although in the British Anned

Forces nowadays minor ginfringements are usually dealt with by a commanding

officer – a commander is the Navy, a lieutenant-cologiel in the Army or wing-commander in the RAF. Where they punishment likely to be

awarded is above a certain

unnatural and territying business and military

Kilmarnock and now living in Windsor, was a sergeant in the Scots Guards. He went berserk during a tour of duty in Northmultiple claims for compensa- ern Ireland in 1990, holding members of his unit at gunpoint and threatening to kill himself. terday that Britain's courts mar- He fired two shots into a television before giving himself up.

It was subsequently discovered that he was suffering from imously ruled in favour of a post-traumatic stress disorder following his experiences in the 1982 Falklands War, where he witnessed the deaths and mutilation of several friends.

in what must be one of the peediest implementations of a Strasbourg ruling, the MoD has taken steps to rectify courts martial in provisions in the 1996 Armed Forces Act which Mr Findlay, originally from comes into force on 1 April.

Discipline in the ranks Courts martial were designed asks the accused whether he for circumstances culte wishes to accept his award or different from civilian criminal elect for that by court marrial. elect for trial by count martial.
In more serious cases,
such as the injurder of a
Davish total guide by British
soldiers in Cyprus, civil
chainal counts take charge.
A soldier charged by a
count martial can nominate an
officer to defend him. A
civilian chayer is flicity.

contraction and the contract of the contract o

cease to entit in its present form, which posecuting authorities will perform a similar issight that of the Crown Prosecution Senepe.

Christopher Bellamy

But a series of other cases arising from the existing system -effectively trial by superior officer rather than independent adjudicator - are coming up.

The judges pointed out that a "convening officer", a Major-General, had taken the decision to charge Mr Findlay, and was responsible for appointing the prosecuting officer and mem-bers of the court martial, all of whom were officers of lower rank and serving in units commanded by him.

Once Mr Findlay had been sentenced to two years' imprisonment, demoted and then dismissed, his appeal went to a "confirming officer" - the same Major-General.

The judges said many of the members of the court martial, including the president, were directly or ultimately under his chain of command. "Furthermore, he also acted as confirming officer. The decision of the court martial was not effective until ratified by him and he had the power to vary the sentence it had imposed. This was contrary to the well-established principle that a tribunal should have the power to make a binding decision, which could not be altered by a non-judicial

authority."
Mr Findlay said: "I felt let down. I know I committed of-fences and I realise I had to be punished, but basically what happened was the medical reports gave a reason why I was in there, but that wasn't taken into consideration." The court declined to award

him compensation because they could not speculate on what the outcome of the court martial would have been had there been no violation. Mr Findlay had claimed more than £440,000 in lost wages and army pension rights. But the judges awarded him costs of £24,000. ■ The Court of Human Rights yesterday rejected a claim by David Gregory, 30, from Manchester, who is black and alleged a judge had wrongly failed to discharge a jury which had showed racial bias.



Small fry: Children tucking in to a school meal yesterday at Argyle Primary School, King's Cross, London

Healthy school dinners – chips with every serving as long as they're not crinkle-cut

Gillan, the schools minister,

announced the changes during

a visit to Argyle Primary School,

Judith Judd Education Editor

Children's favourite school dinner - chips - may stay on the menu but they should be thick or oven-cooked, according to the first government guidelines on school meals for 17 years. They should also be straight rather than crinkle-cut; because straight chips absorb less fat.

Hamburgers should be more bun and less burger. And in spaghetti bologuese the spaghetti should far exceed the

The guidelines, produced after a series of alarming reports about the unhealthy state of Carbohydrates should account With the help I want to see even better."

children's diets, were immediately condemned by unions, for at least 11 per cent. Cheryl because they are voluntary.

Legislation removed nutritional standards for school meals in 1980. The new guidelines emphasise that healthy school meals are possible even on a tight budget. Schools should offer plenty of

cereals, bread and potatoes (mashed and jacket as well as chips.) Vegetables should be lightly steamed and beans and pulses should be added to meat. Fat should account for no more than 35 per cent of the

King's Cross, London, which has a healthy-eating policy run by pupils on a school council. Mrs Gillan tucked in to a plate of lasagne, potato, sweetcorn and peas after turning down a fishcake. She said: "It

is a fact of life that many children enjoy chips. School food has improved by leaps and bounds in recent years. Greasy chips and soggy vegetables should be a thing of the past. With the help of this guidance, sugars no more than 11 per cent. I want to see school food get

Since 1988 all schools have putting unnecessary burdens een obliged to put school on schools. It was not for the been obliged to put school meals out to competitive tender. Ben Priestley, assistant national officer for Unison, the public service union, said: "Without the necessary backing under legislation, the guidelines, however good, can still be ignored by school-meals providers, particularly those private contrac-

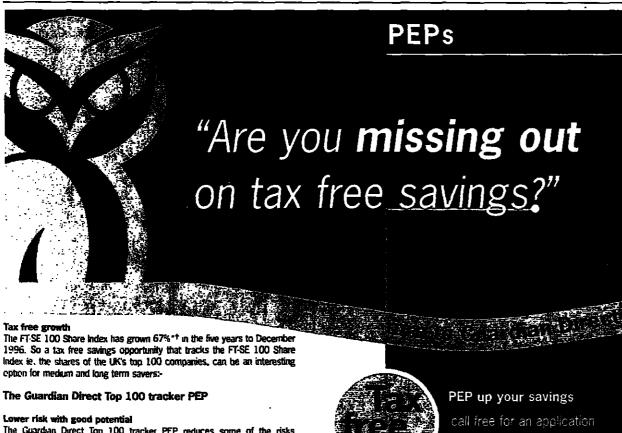
tors motivated by profit." He said the nutritional standards of the 4 million school meals served daily varied greatly across the country.

The Department for Education said they were not making the guidelines compulsory because they wanted to avoid

Government to dictate the content of school dinners. Labour called for nutritional guidelines for school meals

last summer. ■ Research shows children have more creativity and stamina if they have a good breakfast. They make fewer mistakes in tests and work faster.

The paper, which is by David Wyon, of the National Institute for Occupational Health in Copenhagen, is based on a study of 200 10-year-olds and was published in the International Journal of Food Science and Nutrition.



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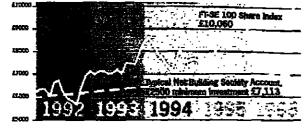
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Unions to join ranks of private utilities

Labour Editor

Union leaders are today expected to make a historic break with their socialist past and endorse the creation of a TUC-backed business to supply union members with cut-price gas and electricity.

According to confidential documents, the company - provisionally called TUCPower would be 75 per cent owned by unions and 25 per cent by financial investors and would seek to take advantage of the deregulation of the energy

supply market next year.

The idea would be to supply energy providers with the names and addresses of any of the seven million union members who declared an interest in joining the scheme. Under the plan, householders would get cheap power and unions would be paid half the profits made through fees charged by TUCPower.

A venture of this kind represents a sea-change in the attitude of unions, which have traditionally steered clear of engaging in capitalist enterprises, but it will receive a warm welcome from Labour leaders.

ruling general council, which is ple today, will argue that the venture sits uneasily with the movement's opposition to privatisation and deregulation. But the officer corps at the

left-led unions Unison and the T&G general union, together with the GMB general union culties in meeting energy bills. and the engineering union. Initial start-up funding is inhave identified no serious prac- tended to come from private fitical difficulties. Criticism may nanciers, who would be yet emerge from lay activists.

tary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association, who first floated the idea, says that if the company could capture just 1 per cent of the market, turnover would amount to £147m.

In a letter to John Monks, TUC leader, Mr Cooper says that the seven million trade unionists together with their families represent between a third and a half of the country's 21 million households.

An internal TUC memorandum argues that potentially unions have considerable bargaining power to negotiate discounts with power providers. Mr Cooper says union mem-

hers are "low risk, valuable customers" because by definition they are in employment. If a substantial return was made cash could be used to help unemployed members buy energy.
"We have here potentially a

way to give all members a good deal on energy purchase; ensure that the unionised companies in generation and the coal industry have access to the key market so preserving members' jobs; make a substantial amount of cash for the movement and at least get something out of yet another difficult change rather Left-wingers on the TUC's than getting stuffed by it as business passes to assorted due to back the plan in princi- foreigners, non-unionised generators and the likes of Group It will cost us nothing."

TUC officials propose that some of the surplus could be used to provide some hardship payments to trade unionists who ran into temporary diffirequired to provide between Tony Cooper, general secre- £500,000 and £1m.



Gothic chic: Model in People Corporation style Photograph: Ben Elwes more than "cleavage"

New York hip meets London street

Melanie Rickey

People Corporation, the London-based fashion label with a French designer and Italian manufacturers, had an American star yesterday. Chloe Sevigny, the star of Kids and the current hit Trees Lounge, took part in the show which was held in a dark and dingy basement club in Holborn, central London.

When Kids came out Sevigny was hailed as an "It" girl and proceeded to appear in advertising campaigns for the Miu Miu label by Miuccia Prada and in every British style magazine worth its salt. But the actress found the tag wearisome. "I've always been seen as this really hip girl, but I'm not, I'm just a regular girl from New York."

People Corporation is the brainchild of Roland Mouret who started the label in October 1995 out of a need for the British to have designer street style they could actually afford, and is inspired by the cafe/bar he runs in ondon's Soho, Freedom.

When the first model appeared carrying a can of lager and smoking a cigarette the tone was set. These were clothes for both sexes to party the night away in.

The big trends for next winter are asymmetric hemmed dresses, oneshoulder tops suspended on tiny beaded string straps, drape front tops, fringing and ruched skirts. The look was almost kitsch cowgirl meets urban clubgoer with a slightly Gothic influence. Men appeared in Alexander McOueen-influenced cord "burnster" style trousers that looked close to revealing a lot



It look: The American actress Chloe Sevigny modelling at London Fashion Week yesterday

Grouse to have peaceful **Twelfth**

Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

Grouse shooters are to be hanned from one of Britain's most famous beauty spors. Ilkley Moor, Bradford City Council, which owns six square miles of the upland beath, decided vesterday that there would be no Glorious Twelfth there this August or on any

The Labour-controlled couneil has decided to withdraw its licence from a local shooting syndicate so the public can roum there throughout the peak holiday month. Until now, ramblers have been hanned during the six to 10 days of the shooting season.

Jack Wormersley, chairman of the sub-committee which took the decision, said: "We'd rather everyone had the chance to look at all of the wildlife, including the grouse, at that time of year instead of just the shooters killing them.

He said likley Moor, 1,000n up and eight miles from central Bradford, would continue to be carefully managed to encourage heather growth and wildlife, including grouse and the birds of prey which hunt them. The moors would be closed for several weeks each year during the most important nesting periods

Bradford will lose the £8.000 a year which the shooters pay for their licence. But Mr Wormersley said the council had already succeeded in winning larger grants from the National Lotlery and the European Union for its management of the moor.

Ilkley Moor has been conncil owned for 100 years. It used to attract hordes of summer picnickers, many of them coming in the summer by special trains. Numbers fell with the rise of the car, but now a new generation of ramblers wants to roam the upland moors as widely and as often as possible. Much of the surrounding heather is privately owned and grouse shooting will

pick up the phone and get tina turner,

(or diana ross, or nina simone, or...)



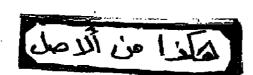




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in retreat: Student protesters flee as police fire tear gas into a university campus in Seoul, South Korea, yesterday

Photograph: Reuter

Kim atones for the sins of his son

Richard Lloyd Parry Tokyo

The entire South Korean cabinet is set to resign in the next few days, after the president, Kim Young Sam, yesterday delivered a dramatic apology on national television and announced the political banishment of his second son.

In a live broadcast from the presi-dential "Blue House" in Seoul, Mr Kim apologised for an unpopular labour law which provoked nation-wide strikes last month and for the involvement of some of his closest aides in a scandal over loans to the bankrupt Hanbo Steel Corporation.

What troubles and embarrasses me all the more is the fact that the name of connection with the impending Hanbo case," the president said. "Like all fathers, it is my belief that the fault of my son is attributable to me as his

himself and stays away from me." The government news agency, Yonhap, reported that 38-year old Kim Hyun Chul, the president's second son, will resign at e predecessors, the former generals Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo, on charges of corruption and treason.

Today, with exactly one year of his It is a testament to the president's from his official posts and go abroad on his father's instructions.

Government officials in Seoul told journalists last night that Mr Kim's cabinet would soon resign in advance of a reshuffle. "I stand before you with a sense of agony and sadness," the president said. "Even some of those who worked closely with me turned out to be involved in the irregularities and corruption ... With humility, I am willing to accept whatever reproach and critism you make."

After his election in 1993, as the first democratically-elected civilian leader of one of my sons has been mentioned in Korea, Mr Kim enjoyed popularity ratings of more than 80 per cent; even last year his New Korea Party won unexpected success in parliamentary elections. He was praised internationally for father ... I will see to it that my son suspends all social activities, behaves and imprisonment of his two immedi-

charges of corruption and treason.

Today, with exactly one year of his term remaining, opinion polls give him an approval rating as low as 10 per cent. Korea's economy is faltering, its unions are up in arms, and the president is politically crippled, with a very hazardous and uncertain retirement to look forward to. "I will work with all my might, with the idea that I am today inaugurating a one-year term as president," he said.

Union leaders threatened yesterday to resume last month's nation-wide strikes unless the National Assembly repeals a controversial new labour law which limits workers' freedom to form unions. But the labour dispute has been eclipsed by the Hanbo scandal, which has already brought about the resignation and indictment of one cabinet minister.

Hanbo Steel went bust at the end of January, leaving 5.000bn won (£3.7bn) of unsecured debts. A subsequent

drastic loss of prestige that public anger over the Hanbo scandal has compromised the reputation of his son. Diplomats and analysts in Seoul tend to take at face value Mr Kim's insistence that, during his term of office at least, he has steered clear of the influence-peddling which was so prevalent among his predecessors. But, as numerous corruption scandals have demonstrated, illicit funds are frequently channelled through close aides or relatives.

■ Seoul — A North Korea defector to South Korea who was shot by two gunmen 10 days ago died yesterday in a hos-pital near Seoul, Reuter reports.

The defector Li Il-nam, a relative of Pyongyang leader Kim Jong-il's ex-wife, had been in a critical condition after being shot on 15 February by gummen suspected to be North Korean agents. investigation revealed that leading He had remained in a coma until he died.

Zairean rebels win hearts, minds and land

David Orr Goma .

The writing is on the wall: Democratic Republic of Congo. The name of Africa's latest breakaway republic, newly painted above the entrance to the Zaire Express airline office, stands out in contrast to Goma's other crumbling facades.

Inside the building, occupied by the new regime's Information Minister, are two maps. Neither reveals the reality of life in this eastern Zairean town since it was captured by rebels nearly four months ago. The world map shows Goma as just another mark on the unified expanse of green which is Zaire. The other map. of the airline's internal routes, has not been altered since the capital, Kinshasa, severed its links with Goma soon after the launch of the rebel offensive last October.

Since then, the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) has occupied a huge swathe of territory in eastern Zaire. Led by the former Marxist Laurent Kabila, the rebels have driven the demoralised Zairean army (FAZ) before them, taking town after town

with apparent ease.

Their rapid progress is causing growing alarm in far-off Kinshasa. The Zairean gov-

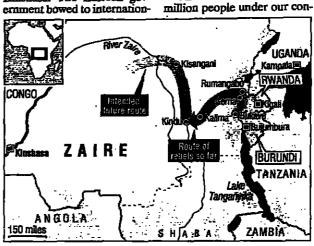
ruled out the possibility of any direct dealing with the rebels. Mr Kabila arrived in South Africa yesterday and was whisked away for what rebel sources said were secret talks on

a solution to the Zaire civil war. The rebels have said they will settle for nothing short of the resignation of the ailing Zairean president, Mobutu Sese

"We're serious about talks," says ADFL Information Minister Raphael Ghenda. "But if our conditions are not met, we'll continue fighting, all the way to Kinshasa if necessary. We're nearly there already."
Mr Ghenda's claim is an

unashamed exaggeration but there are many who believe the rebels could reach the capital if they continue to advance at their current rate. Already, they are close to Kisangani, Zaire's third-largest city and a strategic location for control of the country's interior. The Zairean defence ministry said Kalima, a small mining town about 180 miles south of Kisangani, came under rebel control at the weekend. A spokesman for the rebels said they were moving from Kalima south to Kindu to try to capture one of two government airports in eastern Zaire.

At the moment we have 10



al pressure to engage in South trol," says Mr Ghenda, who has African-sponsored talks about the crisis last week. But it has gium to serve the new regime. The current government is corrupt. We want to change that. I believe most of the population is with us."

Though it is impossible to assess their popularity nation-wide, the rebels seem to have been welcomed in most areas they hold. This is not so surprising: Zaire's politicians, and in particular its president, have for decades been synonymous with corruption and greed. Unpaid the army has devoted itself to pillage and extortion. The rebels, by contrast, appear dis-ciplined and committed to reform. "People are happy here at the moment," says one foreign aid worker in Goma. "We deal with a rebel committee which protects us from the lower ranks of the civil service who still try to get money out of us. So far, we've had little reason to com-

What last October started out as a self-defence campaign among eastern Zaire's Tutsi community is now a liberation movement with nationalist as-pirations. As they push into the interior the rebels gain new recruits, some of them defectors from the FAZ. Nevertheless, the core of the rebel force continues to be seen as largely Tutsi.

Much of the insurgents' popularity will depend on their ability to reorganise the economy. Already, interim political struc tures have been established and administrators appointed. In Goma there is once again

electricity and running water. Government threats to continue and intensity air bombardments which began last week are unlikely to have little effect on the rebel advance. The inhabitants of Bukavu and the other affected towns have not responded to government exhortations to leave rebel territory. By targeting civilian areas. Kinshasa is certain to further alienate the populace and increase sympathy for the insur-



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significant shorts

Le Pen tortured Arab prisoners in Algeria

Jean-Marie Le Pen, founder and leader of the far-right Front National, tortured Arab prisoners during the Franco-Algerian war. The appeal court in Rouen yesterday quashed £1,100 in damages imposed in 1993 on the former Socialist Prime Minister, Michel Rocard, for calling Mr Le Pen a torturer in a television interview. There was, the appeal court decided, considerable evidence that Mr Le Pen had tortured Arab prisoners while serving in the paratroops during the Algerian war of independence. It cited evidence given on oath by "numerous witnesses and victims". It also cited Mr Le Pen himself, who had admitted and justified using torture on several occasions.

John Lichfield - Paris

Banana gay rape inquiry

Police in Zimbabwe said yesterday they would investigate sodomy charges against former President Canaan Banana, and a lawyer for a policeman allegedly raped by the

politician demanded a criminal trial.

Police Commissioner Augustine Chihuri said he ordered an urgent investigation into a three-year homosexual liaison forced on policeman Jefta Dube, 36, by Mr Banana, 60, a political ally of President Robert Mugabe. Byron Hove, Mr Dube's lawyer, said evidence in the High Court on Monday showed Mr Banana used his power as head of state to coerce Mr Dube into homosexual acts between 1983 and 1986.

Soldiers kill Palestinian

Israelis soldiers killed a Palestinian and wounded three others in a clash in a West Bank village near Jerusalem

vesterday, the army said. An army spokesman said the soldiers were attacked by Palestinian residents of the Hizmeh village during operational activity.

"The force responded with fire killing one Palestinian, wounding one moderately to severely and wounding two others lightly," the spokesman said. Reuters - Jerusal

Kosovo police brutality

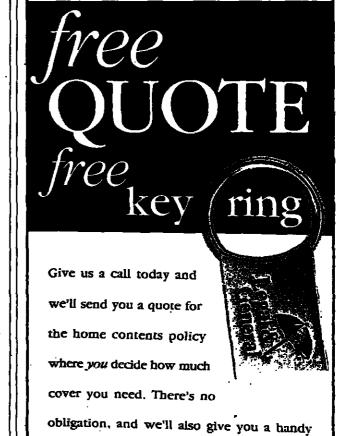
An ethnic Albanian was tortured before he died in police custody in Serbia's troubled Kosovo province, a European Parliament delegation said yesterday after seeing his body. "We have seen the tortured boy who died. Don't forget that there is torture in your country and it cannot be accepted," said Doris Pack, a German member of the European People's Party. "We have seen the body of this tortured young man. His fingers, nails and ear were injured. His legs were completely smashed and his feet were blue and green," she told German radio later. Reuters - Belgrade

Shock at student's death

Western embassies, human rights activists and Kenya's opposition hit out at a student leader's killing but police said they were not treating it as a murder.

"We've been following the [Solomon] Muruli case very carefully. We are deeply shocked by tiolent death and we expect that his death will be the subject of a speedy and thorough investigation," a senior official at the British High Commission said. The charred body of the 23-yearold student was found on Sunday in his room at a Nairobi University hostel. Witnesses heard an explosion shortly

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rebels, arts, ad land

tiol," says Mr Ghenda, who come back from exile in a Come the active the new man The current government corrupt. We want to the that, I believe most of the public mark of the public mark of the public market of the pub The up hat is impossible to: area their popularity me

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water, the tebels seem to be been welcomed in most at they hold. This is not so it prising: Zaire's politicant th butternill to broaden a in paracular been sample with corruption and gred is pand the army has devoted to hillatic and adouted relacts, by contrast appears form. "People are happy her the moment." Saw one look and worker in Goma. We have the more than the with a rebel committee in protects us from the barrel of the civil service who sile to get money our of us Sof we've had luttle reason to a

What has October sande as a self-defence came community is now aliber. assement with nationing parations. As they pushing interior the rebels games; crists, some of them delay from the L.V. Nevenheles core of the repel force on nes to be seen as largely &

Much of the insurgence District will depend on their my to reorganise the con-Vireach, interim political hores have been estable and administrators apple In Committhere is oneg segments and commercial Concernment threatsis,

tione and intensity and hardments which been; week are unlikely to have officer on the rebelladians, other affected towns had responded to governme horizonens to leave rebeition. In targeting civilian. knowlesse is certain to k abecase the populace r erease sampathy for the

TWING YOUR NTENTS INSURANCE



Arms exports are the responsibility of the Defence Exfar fjeles og de H port Services Organisation, headed by Charles Masefield. It was established in 1966 followa. Here sale ing a report by Sir Donald, latwell obesite conditional er Lord, Stokes, to co-ordinate the activities of British defence companies. Lord Stokes recommended that a closely knit organisation be established to al keniliini handle British arms sales and help British firms to secure ommended that future overseas market considerations be taken into account when buying new British defence equipment,

British firms are back at their .destructive best, writes **Chris Bellamy**

Reach for the sky: The Hawk combat trainer, one of the Britain's defence industry, now the world's second-largest

Lion claws a

giant share

of the world

arms bazaar

Britain's defence exporters

achieved a record last year,

capturing a quarter of the £20bn

world market for arms, de-

fence equipment and services,

including training and support. The £5.1bn Britain earns from

defence is almost as much as it

derives from financial services.

increasing share.

As the global market for defence equipment and services decreases, Britain is netting an

The £5.1bn of business

achieved by British companies.

represents 25 per cent of the

world market, compared with 19

per cent in 1995. 16 per cent in

1994 and 20 per cent in 1993,

and putting Britain back as the world's second-largest defence

Defence exports are there-

fore of enormous importance to

Britain. The MoD said they con-

tribute to the maintenance of

360,000 jobs in the industry.

In addition to the jobs, the re-

lationships connected with mil-

itary supplies enable British to

punch above its weight in for-

eign diplomacy and maintain

special relationships in certain

areas, particularly the Middle

East, in the view of the Government. Next month Britain

British Aerospace did a £500m

deal to sell 40 Hawk combat

trainer aircraft, plus simula-

tors and a 25-year support con-

tract. In the same month, in another £500m deal. Qatar agreed to buy GKN Piranha

armoured troop carriers, Short Starburst surface to-air mis-

siles, small warships from Vos-

per Thornycroft, and about a dozen Hawk aircraft. The Hawk

has been outstandingly suc-

cessful, and has been sold to 13

something which has become

Procurement.

exporter after the US.

end of the Cold War. The world defence export market has halved in size since the end of the Cold war, but is still huge. At £20bn a year, it is equiv alent to the total amount of coin and notes in circulation in

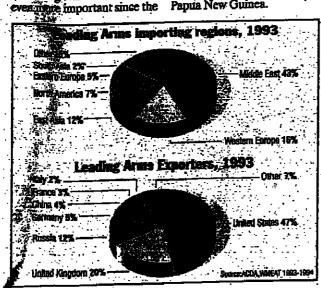
. It is difficult to separate the

market for military equipment from services, as the two usually go together in packages consisting not only of corvettes or tanks, but of support, training and simulators However, figures from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency indicate that arms themselves make up about twothirds of the total - \$23ba (£14.3bn) in 1995. Of the £5.1 on exported by British companies last year, two-thirds was related to aircraft and the rest to

will be heavily represented at a land and sea systems. big arms fair in Abu Dhabi, to However, the growing imbe attended by James Arbuthportance of simulators and computer systems mean there not, the Minister for Defence are increasing opportunities Last year two deals alone for sales in that area, too, not directly connected with specifwere worth £1on. In November, ic weapons systems.

Developed nations account for more than 90 per cent of world arms exports. The Soviet Union was the second-largest exporter until its break-up in 1991, when Britain moved into second place. Briefly surpassed by Russia, it returned to this position last year.

The biggest arms-importing region is the Middle East, with Saudi Arabia the largest importer since the Gulf war, followed by Egypt and Turkey. East and South-East Asia and the Pacific Rim is the thirdlargest arms market, and is of increasing interest to European and North American defence firms. Military spending is expected to increase in proportion to the expanding economies of the region, and many analysts fear that an arms race there could get out of control, with simmering tension in the Korean peninsula, between China and Taiwan, over the Kurile, Paracels and Natuna islands. Many potential disputes are over resources or driven by environmental considerations, like the disoute in Papua New Guinea.



SA dogs of war sent to train Papuan military

most successful pieces of equipment produced by

A South African company accused of providing mercenaries to regional governments said ves-terday that it would help train

Papua New Guinea's military. A statement from Executive Outcomes, the Pretoria-based company that employs former members of the South African military, said it was sub-contracted by Sandline Interna-tional of the United Kingdom to provide aircraft, equipment and specialised training to

Papua New Guinea forces. In its statement, Executive Outcomes acknowledged the training it would provide was part of a government strategy to reach a lasting solution to the ... crisis in Bougainville". Executive Outcomes has previously provided military advisers and security forces in Elected Photograph: Austin J Brown Aviation Picture Library | Angola and Sierra Leone.

While the company denies that

on the ground have been known

They are out here to build up the capabilities of our defence force," said Sir Julius Chan, the Papuan Prime Minister, adding that the decision to use mercenaries was taken 18 months ago. "They would be taken in only as an advisory team, but we would not use them in the frontline.We are no fools. We are a government, and no government would allow their citizens to be killed by foreigners.

The Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, said vesterday that he thinks "a mercenary strike" is planned against the Bougainville rebels. Rebels have been fighting a guerrilla war since 1988 on Bougainville, a copper-rich island 800 miles north-east of

the capital of Port Moresby. Mr Howard told a meeting of MPs that he became aware cenaries in the nine-year-old conflict on Bougainville, "He IMr Howard said it's obviously a very serious situation." a government spokesman said.

Meanwhile, hospitals in northern Australia were put on alert for casualties from any increase in the fighting on Bougainville island. Papua New Guinea is Australia's closest neighbour. Sir Julius said on Monday that the option of using non-government soldiers to help train his military had been canvassed in a detence paper drawn up in consultation with Australia, But Alexander Downer, the Australian Foreign

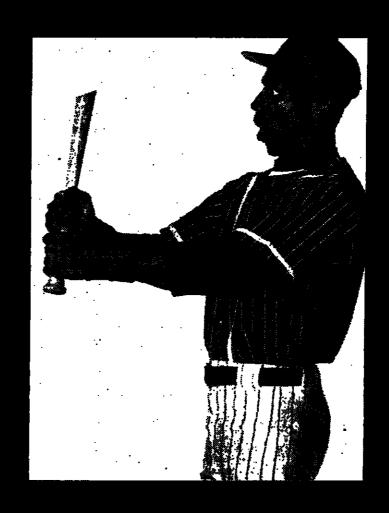
Minister, rejected this claim. "Australia was not advised by PNG of its intention to hire mercenary forces," he told parlia-The Department of Defence has not suggested at any stage that mercenaries have a role to play in PNG's security."

in the Australian parliament yesterday condemned the mercenary plan. The motion, to be debated next month, urged Australia to warn Papua New Guinea that the use of mercenaries would "prejudice our bilateral relationship"

Sydney — Amnesty Interna-Guinea's defence force should he held accountable for more than 40 deaths and "disappearances" last year on Bougainville, Reuter reports.

The report claimed the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) and the paramilitary Resistance Forces were responsible for 44 "unlawful or indiscriminate killings or 'dis-appearances', last year. Amnesty also condemned what it described as "deliberate and arbitrary" killings by the BRA and called on the rebels to stop holding hostages.

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邓小平同志追悼大会

Comrades praise 'great Marxist' but

Deng's memorial: One ceremony, two reactions

The final legacy of Deng Xiaoping proved yesterday to be the freedom not to have to mourn his passing.

In the Guiyou Department Store, nonchalant shoppers ig-nored the rows of purple-uniformed shop assistants who were standing to attention as the public address system blared a live transmission of Mr Deng's hour-long memorial ceremony.

Maybe some people just mourn him inside their hearts." ventured one shop girl, after a smartly-dressed woman had demanded to try on a pair of cream court shoes costing 256 yuan (£20). It was a fitting tribute for a man who had wanted his funeral to be a non-event.

Meanwhile, in the Great Hall of the People, the political theatre proceeded in a world of its own. A casket containing Deng's ashes had been placed under a giant photograph of the former patriarch, and covered with the Communist Party flag. Before an audience of 10,000 senior party and government officials, President Jiang Zemin declared Deng "a great Marxist", adding "without comrade Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese people would not live a new life like today's and there would not

be today's new situation of re-forms and opening-up and the bright prospects of the social-one stall-holder in an open-air ist modernisation".

He pledged that China would continue the reform policies of Mr Deng, offering no succour to either leftists or those who would wish to reassess the ver-

6 A money changer was more interested in exchange rates than the memorial 9

dict on the June 1989 Tianan-

men Square protests.

The president said the Chinese people should "express our mourning by working harder and doing well in all aspects of practical work".

On the streets of Peking, some grieved openly and some did not. Many of those whose lifestyles are a product of the Deng reforms disregarded even the official three-minute silence in favour of business as

private food market, when asked why she was not watching the televised memorial ceremony.

The people of the Deng era were all around. There was the 20-year-old migrant worker from Shandong province who had arrived by train at lam that morning planning to seek work as a hotel chef, one of millions who are now free to roam the country looking for jobs; no, he would not be watching the ceremony, he said, sitting on his bundles on the pavement, "I have nowhere to watch TV."

There was an illicit money changer outside a branch of the Bank of China who was far more interested in how Deng's death might affect the exchange rates than in the memorial.

In old fashioned state work units and government offices, tools and pens were generally downed for the three minute silence, but not everywhere. At the Tunnel Engineering Branch of the No 4 Municipal Engineering Company, which these days must keep an eye on the bottom line, an official explained that only party members and cadres would watch the broadcast, leaving the 800 construction workers still toiling un-



Multiple vision: Televisions in a Peking department store (above), tuned to yesterday's memorial service at the Great Hall of the People (below), showing the caption 'Comrade Deng Xiaoping is immortal'.

Photographs: Above: Paul Lowe/Magnum); Below, Reuters

derground. A central government edict had ordered state units like his to ensure "the mitted, "but we have our own internal instructions". It would be too disruptive to the work

schedule, he said.

the No 1 Machine Tool Factory explained that, unlike everyone else in the factory, he would not see the live broadcast "because there must be some one to keep watch".

Was he disappointed? "No, because if I can't see it today, The 63-year-old doorman at I can see it tomorrow. It will be

on TV repeatedly." Like many of his generation who worked for cash-strapped state enterprises, he had been forced out of retirement because his pension after 30 years at the machine tool factory was so

Deng's reforms have been tough on the enterprises which were cocooned by central planning. "Over the last few years the business here has become not good," he said.

When Chairman Mao died, Chinese person was more likely to get into trouble for not mourning publicly than for do-

Peking (Renters) — Two bombs rocked the Chinese city of Urumqi, capital of China's Muslim western region of Xinjiang, yesterday. Officials reported several casualties. Residents said the blasts occurred at about 6.30pm local time, on the last of six days' mounting for Deng Xiaoping. One explosion involved a vehicle believed to be a minibus; the second occurred at the south gate of the city, officials said. Ethnic Ughurs were thought to be involved.

economic reform combined with an authoritarian political system has had the effect of re-

By 7.40am, the police had cleared Tiananmen Square of any ordinary Chinese who had come to grieve or just to watch. An elderly couple who earlier laid a wreath at the Monument to the People's Heroes were allowed to walk across the square before plain-clothes police firmly helped them into a summoned police van.

A similar fate awaited mourners later in the day, one of whom placed a flower in a bottle - a play on the name Xi-aoping which in Chinese sounds the same as "Little Bottle".

Inside the hall, Mr Jiang stood centre stage as the man whom Deng, before his death, had called the "correct choice" as the new "core" of the party leadership, and someone "qual-

The memorial ceremony, it turned out, was a 50-minute speech by Mr Jiang, eulogising Deng and promising to carry on his reforms. His death was "a loss beyond measure", said the president, producing tears which would not have convinced the most desperate cast-

The speech gave the world the first hint of the path to be followed in the post-Deng era. A Western diplomat said: The message there is first of all the policy of reform will continue, and secondly that Jiang's your man. The fact he was up there delivering the authoritative word on the Deng legacy made that point.

ing director.

The speech was "more positive on reform than one might

Mr Jiang stuck to the official line on the June 1989 so-called "counter-revolutionary" events. "Because the party and the government adopted a firm and achievements of reform and opening up and socialist modhearts of the people, we with-

In the closing hours of the official six-day mourning period last night, the television channels showed repeats of the

stood the severe test, and our

cause continued its vigorous de-

velopment along the road set,

mourning ceremony.

Today the flags will be hoisted back to the top of their poles, and the post-Deng era begins in





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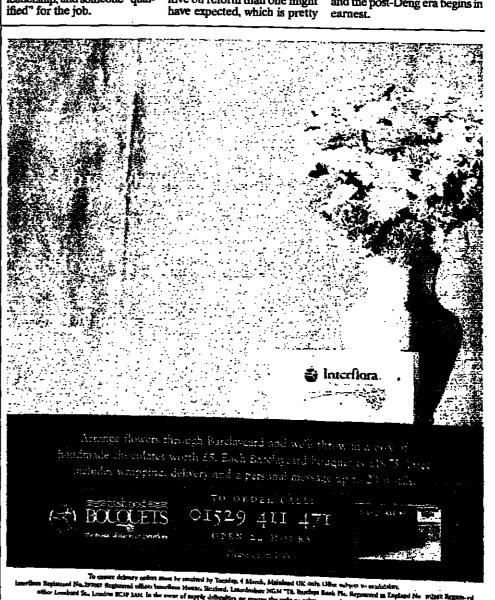
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but it's business as usual for the Chinese

Hong Kong pays its respects with one eye on the handover

Stephen Vines Hong Kong

A wail of fog horns filled Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour at precisely 10am yesterday as the Chinese national anthem was played some 2,000kms away in Peking's Great Hall of the People at

Deng Xiaoping's funeral service.
The famous funicular railway, which runs up to Hong Kong's luxury Peak district, ground to a halt, truck and taxi drivers sounded their horns and loudspeakers in underground train stations. emitted solemn music for 10 minutes.

The colony's most influential companies were making sure that their ges-tures of respect to the late paramount Chinese leader were noted. For ordinary people it was business as usual. 'I suppose I will watch it the funerfrom work, so I can't think I will do anything else," she said. However, the death of the man who

has so greatly influenced the last years of colonial rule in Hong Kong has hardly been marked by indifference. More than 45,000 people have passed through the normally closed doors of the New China News Agency (NCNA)

to pay their respects.

The NCNA, which acts as China's de facto embassy in Hong Kong, is mused to opening its doors to the public, more usually they are barred to prevent demonstrators outside from emissions access.

gaining access.

The death of Deng Xiaoping has given members of pro-democracy organisations and the Governor, Chris Parten, their first chance to enter the building. Practically every senior government official business tycoon and other prominent personalities

Meanwhile, Hong Kong's China watching media, which has traditionally been both the best and worst source of information on developments in China, is full of stories of disagreements between various leadership factions vying for power in the wake of Mr Deng's demise. Hong Kong's Chinese language newspapers have also been publishing accounts of Mr Deng's will, supposedly based on information supplied by Chinese officials.
According to these reports, Deng expressed regret over the 1989 Transnmen Square massacre. One report even says that he asked for forgiveness. A pro-Peking political party has for-mally requested that some of Deng's ashes be scattered in Hong Kong to ful-



Local police demand equal rights

at the Great Hall of the People

司志追悼大会

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The handover of power in Hong Kong will have a final, unexpected and unpleasant sting in the tail for police officers of Hong Kong Chinese birth in the colony who are likely to find themselves tens of thousands of pounds worse off than their white colleagues. One of the officers, Ken

Chik, is to seek a judicial review in the High Court today against the Foreign Office's interpre-tation of a little-publicised law rubber-stamped last year. This gives public servants in Hong. Kong cash compensation and

"We're moset" about this ... as the white officers 🤊

greatly improved pensions should they decide they cannot continue to serve under Chinese

rule after 1 July.
Mr Chik, 38, takes his role in
the Royal Hong Kong Police force seriously, including the oath all officers are required to swear to the Crown. He joined the force back in 1976 and has risen to the rank of senior

inspector.
We take the oath of allegiance very seriously indeed. We sometimes have to act against the Chinese people to safe-guard British colonial interests. That's a considerable conflict of interest for people like me and could put me in conflict with China after the changeover. That is why I have decided very reluctantly to leave

the police force."

However, Mr Chik, along with 15 other Hong Kong officers intending to leave the force, discovered they were not eligible for generous compensation payments offered to civil servants serving in the colony who were born in the UK. Unlike most Hong Kong

nationals, Mr Chik's occupation was considered sensitive enough to require protection. He is currently considering whether to leave Hong Kong altogether before July to start a new life in the Britain.

A law introduced last year

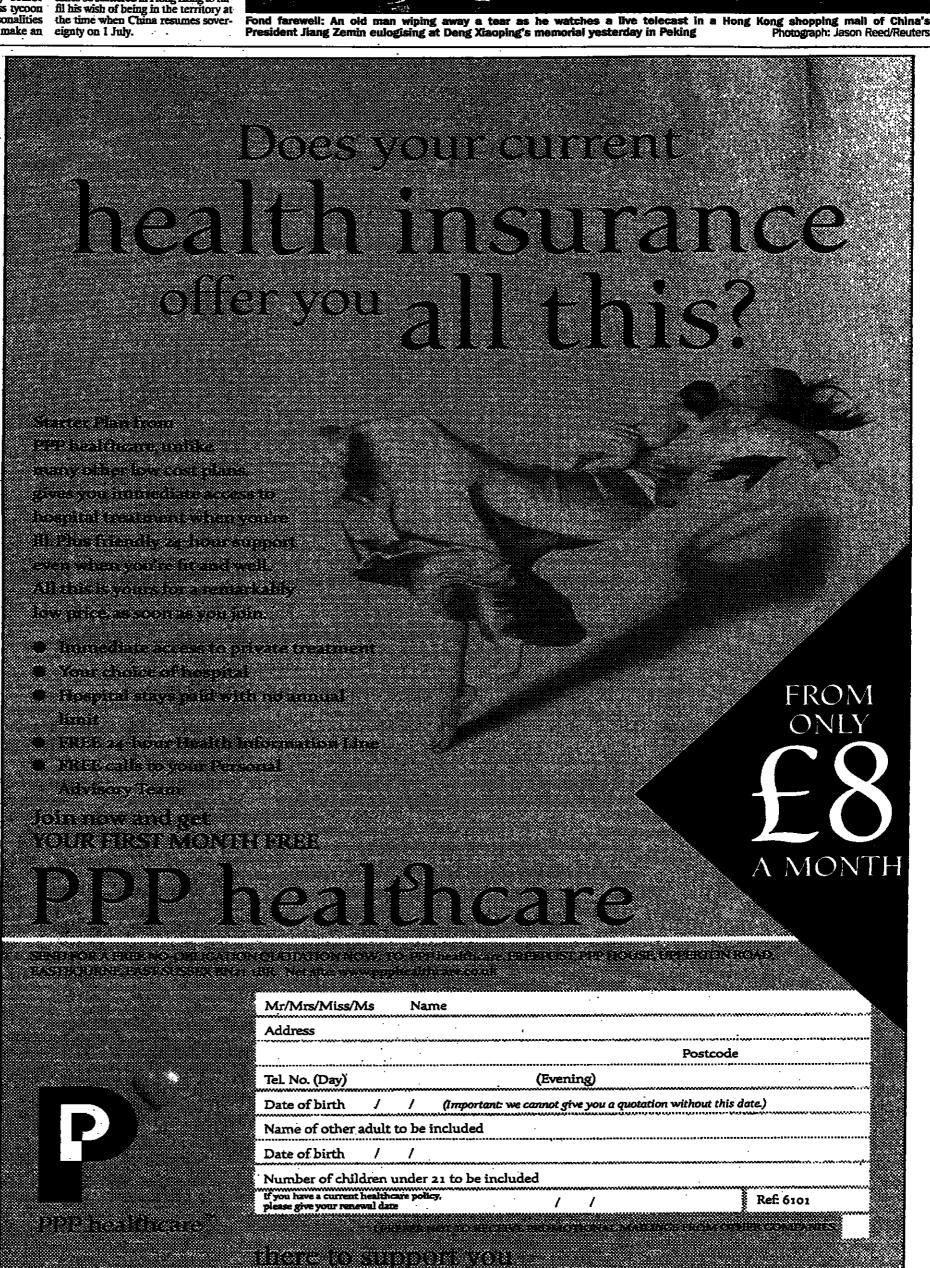
enables UK civil servants intending to leave Hong Kong to draw their pensions early and guarantees compensation worth

The legislation also applies to officials of Hong Kong Chinese we're as British origin. However, when Mr Chik applied to the Foreign Office he was told that this affected only judges and magistrates. Police officers were not included. Mr Chik estimates this will cost him £10,000 a year for the next 17 vears until he reaches his official retirement age of 55.

The ruling was made despite the fact that Hong Kong Chinese officers in the force were granted British citizenship in

Mr Chik is bitter. "We are very upset about this. We think it contravenes international law on human rights. The majority of local officers support us. All the 15 applicants are British. We're as British as the white

Time is running out for the 15 police officers as the handover approaches. Louis Charalambous, Mr Chik's solicitor, said: We hope the courts recognise how pressing this is and allow us to challenge the Foreign Office's interpretation of the legislation as quickly as possible."



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The final act, but Kohl remains mighty

his latest German opera is called Kanzlerdāmmerung, the Twilight make that remark only because German opera is called the ruling coalition. Note that he could make that remark only because German opera is called the ruling coalition. Kanzlerdämmerung, the Twilight of the Chancellor. You may have been led by recent colourful front-ofstalls reports into thinking that the Rhine is boiling, Bonn's Gods are at each others' throats and Valhalla more convincing demonstration that, as (Chancellor Kohl's Euro-project) is about to tumble. The problem with the scenario is that Helmut Kohl is not Wotan. He may be down but neither he nor his European ambitions is yet to be counted out. These past few weeks he has hit the roughest patch in his long dominance of German politics, but the Kohl era is not over yet.

But wait. What a cheap shot that Wagnerian trope is. It's so typical of the British approach to Germany to glorify in national stereotypes. History will always be an instructive companion, but should never become a tour guide. What is happening in Bonn is mere politics, healthy contestation of a kind we know well. A party convulses at the prospect of a change in leadership (ring any bells?) and the opposition rub their hands. Helmut Kohl is beleaguered though unlike the British Prime Minister he still has his finance minister entirely on board in the matter of Europe.

Just listen to that not-so-coded message from Wolfgang Schäuble, his deputy: as well as himself, he said, there are at least eight other possible replacement chancellors from within

man federalism is flourishing. All of the parties can call on talent nurtured in the more convincing demonstration that, as the century turns, German democracy is in fine fettle? Even the question could sound patronising, unless we admit that the Germans could easily turn round and criticise the cramping cent-ralisation of power in the United Kingdom and instruct us in how liberating devolution of power can be. That said German domestic politics are of especial interest to us in two areas.

The first is the reviving fortunes of the centre-left, as shown in the polls, and in the perkiness of the Social Democrats. What might this say about the Great Question of modern European politics, which is, what is left for the left when everyone agrees on low inflation, controlled taxes and constant downwards pressure on public spending?

Well almost everyone. Oskar Lafontaine, the SPD Bundestag leader, bidden to talks with the government on Monday night because his party controls the upper parliamentary chamber, ruled out any cuts in the top rate of tax, which is more than 50 per cent. Taxes, in Germany, do not quite have the reach-for-the-garlic-and-crucifix ring they have here. The SPD has been conversing lately with the Green Alliance



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-298 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-298 2435 / 0171-845 2485

about the possibility of coalitions and the air is thick with talk of energy taxes. Watch this space for fiscal innovation.

The other question which directly concerns us is, of course, European integration. On the fate of Helmut Kohl depends the launch of the Euro in 1999. Look at the alternatives to him. All of them - whether Social Democrat, from the Christian Social Union (whose big man, the Bavarian prime minister Manfred Stoible, is a contender), or frontbenchers of the Christian Democrats - are less enthusiastic about the single currency and unwedded to the existing timetable. Say the Chancellor

SIZE TELL YOU WHAT I WHAT. S WHAT I REALLY, REALLY WHAT... S

were to return from his Easter break and announce that he would not be a candidate for the next national elections, due in 1998. The German negotiating position at the Amsterdam inter-governmental conference would inevitably be weakened. The capacity of the CDU/CSU coalition to make that last push to bring the German budget deficit down to within Maastricht limits might be fatally weakened.

The clear implication is that all those in this country who, for their various reasons, wish to see monetary union delayed, must hope that the Big Man is on his last legs. Without Kohl, the

next British government faces a much easier ride, whatever its colour. So what happens in Germany if there is a revolt within the coalition, or the opposition demand the Chancellor's head as the price of its adherence to radical tax and pensions reform? Does it follow that the prospects for further integration of the European Union would be so badly set back? There is a school of thought, which certain Euro-enthusiasts have encouraged, which projects the possibility of no single currency, and Germany floating off into Austrianstyle nationalism, or withdrawing into itself, leaving a geo-political vacuum in

central Europe.

But neither of those is either necessary, or a likely outcome. The question of what post-Kohl Germany looks like has become a lot easier to answer as the contenders limber up and strut the Bonn stage. The very fact that the SPD has been willing to begin discussions with the government over tax reform is a harbinger. The SPD is, truth to tell, a conservative party resembling in some degrees Old Labour, though without its ideological baggage and a lot more sharply dressed. But even it is beginning to bite the bullet of reducng labour costs and stimulating enterprise. Real Europhiles need have no fear of a SPD revival - Herr Lafontaine and his colleagues were not called Tuscany-socialists for nothing.

But the game is not yet up.

to recover his former authority. He has the example before him in Konrad Adenauer of a Chancellor who stayed too long, though it will be more than a decade before he gets anywhere near Adenauer's age at exit. The revelation of the past few days is the quality and number of his would-be replacements. But they are still in the wings, Helmut Kohl bestrides the stage.

The Tube test for Labour

ondon Underground users should Lakeep their eyes on three principles as the debate on the Government's plans for privatisation unfolds. One is the new money needed for investing in rolling stock, tracks and stations. Next is revolutionising the culture of London Underground's management and staff attitudes. The third is keeping strategic direction over all of London's transport, linking trains, buses, taxis, cycleways and Tubes in integrated networks (preserving such joint arrangements as the travel card). Privatisation, cleverly configured, can deliver all three. If Labour can acknowledge the advantages of privatisation in this case, it will have proven its claim to have thrown off its state-owning shibboleths.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Stately homes belong firmly to the past

Sir. I fear that for Mr Gummer, the countryside has become no more than a view from the motorway ("Gummer's vision for our rural future: more stately homes for the rich", 20 February). Building a latter-day equivalent of ă Gothic pile is no more than making a composition within the frame of the car window.

If he wishes there to be an attractive countryside in the future, he should concentrate on saving it from ever more roads.

newigrand houses would be very different in their effect from the manor-houses of the past. The latter formed part of a nowvanished social and communal order. The local squire was the person who employed most of the locals, or leased them their farms. He, or she, was expected to act as the leader in local affairs. including taking on onerous and expensive duties. Much of this, of coinse, was for the benefit of fellow members of the squirearchy, but it included patronage of the local school, provision of village halls, and holding fêtes in the house

occupied by security obsessed fat cats. Their owners are far more likely to start badgering the local authority to close public footpaths "for security reasons" than they are to lay out parkland and throw

Sir: John Gummer has a remarkably idiosyncratic idea of very fine and very original" houses, if his examples are anything to go by: a medieval ruin and three 19th-century stylistic

Mark Girouard wrote in 1979 in Historic Houses of Britain: "No one could pretend that Sandringham is architecturally distinguished." But then, sadly, there have been very few distinguished country houses built since the time of Mackintosh and Lutyens at the turn of the

Hill House and Castle Drogo, not to mention Hardwick Hall, Blenheim Palace or the Royal Pavilion at Brighton as "truly outstanding" homes of great originality which enhanced their

to local planning committees to decide what will enhance rural surroundings, and few will be prepared to be so daring as to support any design of true originality. Paradoxically, some of the most

far-sighted patrons of residential Colleges - for example both St John's Colleges, where there are sensitively designed undergraduates' sets by Sir Philip Dowson and by Powell and Moya

respectively.
I don't think Nicholas Schoon need shed too many tears for the less wealthy. There have been and continue to be many derelict cottages rebuilt and enlarged and barns converted to satisfy the demands of you and me for a pad the country. What is really

airpags and yeres field" ministral developments. He should also be aware that

This is the good side of the old order, but it has gone, along with its many ills. A new generation of country houses is likely to be it open for public enjoyment. CHRISTOPHER PADLEY Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

Mr Gummer could have quoted

rural surroundings.
The trouble is that it will be up

development have been Oxbridge

needed is affordable housing in urban areas for the poor ... but that is another story. GEOFFREY BURNABY

Sir: Your article "Gummer's vision for our rural future; more stately homes for the rich" (20 February), about the provisions in the Government's new planning guidance for rural areas, portrays a misleading picture of the Council for the Protection of

Winchester. Hampshire

Rural England's view. CPRE is not "antidevelopment". We support a great number of development proposals which, unfortunately, often goes unreported. The new guidance is, in general, welcome. In particular, we welcome the implication in the new guidance that local authorities need to think more carefully about the kind of development which is appropriate in rural areas. We believe in a more discriminating approach to rural development in which identified social and economic needs are met in ways which do not damage the quality

The provision in the new nidance to encourage the building of new country houses is not warranted. The planning system already has sufficient flexibility to allow for truly innovative design. Moreover, CPRE is concerned that this special provision will create a new loophole in the planning system whereby speculative developers will be encouraged to build larger and more obtrusive homes in open countryside. GREGOR HUTCHEON

Council for the Protection of Rural

of the rural environment.

Rural Affairs Officer

England, London SWI

Palestine law chief replies

Sir: I was very surprised to read a despatch from Patrick Cockburn (Torture deaths that shame Palestine", 21 February), the concluding paragraph of which was that I viewed all Palestinian human rights activists as "a fifth column". This is not correct and does not represent anything I have ever said

or done. I have the highest regard and respect for human rights activists Palestinian and otherwise. My staff and I follow clear and strict instructions in this respect from our

leader, President Arafat. May I point out that I myself have suffered a great deal, and for a long time, in prisons under occupation, and I have special reasons to be grateful for the assistance I was given by human rights activists. My views on this subject, and on what is happening here in the sphere of human rights, were expressed in an interview in the Arabic newspaper al-Hayat, published in London on the same day as your despatch appeared.

Allow me please to emphasise the simple fact that we here promptly and actively investigate all reports about human rights abuses, and it is a matter of record that the Palestinian Authority has meted out severe punishment to culprits, irrespective of status or

The fact remains, however, that we are a new administration

functioning in extremely difficult circumstances. This is not an excuse for wrongdoing – it merely explains the context in which some abhorrent and regrettable acts have been committed.

We are most grateful to human rights activists for helping the Palestinian people. We wish, at all levels, to co-operate in eradicating abuses and in improving and normalising life for our people in line with the highest stands human rights principles. KHALID AL-KIDRAH

Astorney General Palestinian National Authority Gaza

Press must take care after trials

Sir: Musa Mazzawi (letter, 18 February) is arguably wrong in essuming that because the two trials of the men acquitted of murdering Stephen Lawrence are over, the Daily Mail may now, without hindrance, say what it likės.

The courts have held (see Archbold on Criminal Pleading, Evidence and Practice 1997, paragraphs 20-36) that the definition of a common law contempt of court, provided by Attorney-General v Times Newspapers Ltd (1974), AC 273 HL, is wide enough to embrace improper interference with persons who have been engaged in ittigation after it is concluded. The assertion that men found not guilty

Fac: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: levers@independent.co.uk).

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

of murder are in fact guilty, arguably amounts to such "improper interference". STANLEY BEST Winkleigh, Devon

Short of water? Ask Arizona

Sir: I have just returned from a twoweek vacation in Arizona to find extraordinary statements being made by water company chiefs (report, 22 February) that unless we change our attitude towards water consumption, we will eventually be faced with daily water cut-offs, reductions in housebuilding programmes and other stringent measures - and this in a part of the globe where rainfall is plenuful!

Cities in Arizona and California are built on desert, and thousands of new homes are being built annually. People often shower twice a

day, and washing machines and dishwashers are standard equipment. There do not seem to be restrictions on watering grass lawns, gardens and golf courses. Of course they have the mighty Colorado – but all this happens in what is basically a desert, where rainfall is minimal and summer heat tremendous. There must be something we can learn from a country which appears to be

managing water supplies with considerable skill. Mrs F MARY POOLE

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

more than a tool Sir: It was heart-warming for those of us who work as mathematicians to read Charles Arthur's eulogy of the complex number i ("It may be square, but it's wondrous", 22
February).
But I imagine many were also

Wonder number

surprised at his relegation of i to the status of a "tool we've made" -rather than a plain fact of nature like the number π or the number 16. In spite of the historical terminology, i is no more (or less) imaginary than these "real" numbers.

And contrary to Mr Arthur's account, both i and its square-rootness of -1 are quite easy to draw on a piece of paper: as a point in the plane midway in rotation about 0 between +1 and -1.

Dr WILLIAM OXBURY Department of Mathematical University of Durham

Labour denies Europe plan

Sir: Your report "Blair plans European affairs department" (24 February) is utterly false. It alleges that "the plan for a department of European affairs is currently being worked on in Tony Blair's office". There is no such plan.

The "senior Labour source" on whose briefing the story claims to be based is seriously misinformed. JONATHAN POWÉLL Chief of Staff to Rt Hon Tony Blair

Leader of the Labour Party House of Commons

Assisted places mean state cuts

Sir: The college in Wiltshire at which I teach has been forced to endure numerous cuts in its income from the Government over the last four years, in the name of efficiency savings. Fewer courses are now offered, class sizes have increased significantly, and 13 staff have

recently been made redundant. Wiltshire County Education Authority has just confirmed swingeing cuts in the budgets of all ts comprehensive schools, giving a ack of government funding as its reason. In addition, the authority is about to cut all hardship grants for students in further education.

Meanwhile, the Government is providing more than £200m each year to fund places at independent schools all over the country, through the Assisted Places has his way, that figure is set to double next year.

Many of the measures taken by the last two Conservative administrations have had significant beneficial effects on the education system as a whole. However, the system is now in danger of serious underfunding, and it is very difficult to reconcile this enormous state subsidy to a private system, with such a severe lack of cash for that which belongs to the public. Corsham, Wiltshire

Start voting, Swampy

Sir. For many years I have written, faxed and e-mailed appeals to toxic governments around the world, as part of Amnesty International's Urgent Action Network, which mobilises quickly to help people in grave danger of torture or execution. Many of these people. are in life-threatening circumstances in their countries simply because they have campaigned for democracy and the right to vote.

I admire Swampy & Co enormously for their road protests, and abhor much of UK politics, but can never agree that not voting is acceptable.
Less of the chic boredom and

nihilism, Suzanne Moore ("No wonder politics is nothing to rave about", 21 February), and consider what you'd do if you lived in a place where government is so very much more "deformed" than in Britain. For a start, you probably couldn't even write your oh-so-GLORIA MOSHANE Richmond, North Yorkshire

Asteroid odds

Sir: Oliver Morton estimates the danger of being struck by an asteroid as greater than the chance of winning the lottery ("So who cares if the sky is falling?", 25 February).

I'm no statistician, but has The independent been hiding from us 100 or so deaths from celestial attack over the past couple of

CHARLES D WROE Hove, East Sussex

The real thing?

Sir. Can anyone explain why - in spite of the United States embargo it is so easy to buy Coca-Cola in

SUSAN STEVENS Guildford, Surrey

Labour: stop taking the tabloids

Lord Jenkins was the reforming Home Secretary of the progressive Sixties. Here he tells Nyta Mann why politicians in the Nineties would be wise to pursue libertarian policies

favourite saying: Liberty is cheap. He has, in private Tony Blair so. The leader of advice to Blair, to which the Labour leader is said to pay great attention. Jenkins has not publicly backed New Labour, but like Shirley Williams, his follow co-founder of the Social Democratic Party, he has come close by heaping extravagant praise on Blair. There has even been talk among some Labour peers that Prime Minister Blair could do worse than appoint Jenkins Leader of the House of Lords should a little crossparty co-operation be in order after the election.

This Saturday, Jenkins is a conference hosted by the Pabian Society and Nexus, the as the model Labour Home newly formed network of cen-tre-left academics and sees the chances of a New thinkers. Both organisations are in the bosom of the Labour ing similarly bold or progres-Party, but the conference title sive home affairs legislation, - Passing the Torch - brings and he can barely squeeze the Lord Jenkins of Hillhead will be sharing a platform with

Tony Blair and Robin Cook. Jenkins is one of the grand old men of politics. Home Secretary (twice) and Chancellor under Harold Wilson, he was at one time seen as Labour's crown prince, destined to lead

dent of the European Com-mission instead. But it is his first stint at the Home Office. from 1965 to 1967, that stands the Liberal Democrats in the as his greatest political House of Lords gives informal achievement. In two hyperactive years, he introduced, on his own initiative, a host of ground-breaking social reforms. Chief among them were legalising abortion, the decriminalisation of homosexuality and the liberalisation of the divorce laws. Though they would later be criticised by some on the right as having paved the way for the "permissive society", it is undeni-

Despite having indelibly blotted his copy-book with his This Saturday, Jenkins is old party by breaking away to one of the keynote speakers at found the SDP in 1981, Jenk-Home Secretary, if you really want to know!

able that the new laws changed

for the better the lives of mil-

lions of ordinary people.

This prediction may come as something of a blow to Straw's own hones. The shadow Home Secretary has said he would like to leave office with a record comparable to Jenkins' in terms of lasting reputation, the party and become prime yet has been grimly deter-

oy Jenkins has a minister. He lost out to Jim mined to out-tough the Tories favourite saying: Callaghan and became Presi- on the home affairs front.

"Yes, it's rather strange in a way, isn't it? I think a libertarian policy on penal and other matters would be both right and wise for an incoming Labour government, because apart from anything else, it's cheap. Liberty, surprisingly enough, is cheap in terms of public expenditure. A hard policy is rather expensive. That's not the only motive, but given that Labour is obsessive - up to a point understandably and rightly. though they're going a bit beyond what I would like about not increasing public expenditure and not raising taxation, it seems to me that this points even more strongly in the direction of arousing some libertarian enthusiasm.

Both Blair and Straw have resisted this thrifty liberal logic. Liberty may indeed be cheap. but New Labour calculates the cost in the votes of Middle England, not in money. Fearful of being seen as soft on not only crime but also squeegee mer-chants, noisy neighbours, youngsters out after dark and what Straw has described as together figures who span the answer out through his laugh-centre-left of British politics. ter: "Nil, if Mr Jack Straw is talks an increasingly social "families from hell", the party authoritarian line.

Jenkins, an unashamed libertarian, is deeply disappointed: "It shows lack of determination. You've got to arouse somebody's enthusiasm."

He believes that whoever holds the position of Home Secretary can also define a government long after those who



Roy Jenkins as Labour Home Secretary: Harold Wilson left him to get on with the job

various high offices. "Finance Home Office reforms." bills, management of the economy and budgets tend to be short-term," he says. "The incoming tide of one's successor sweeps them away like sand

"This is very much a retrospective thought that probably came to me five or more years later. But while the Chancellor of the Exchequer is much more at the centre of politics at the time, in the Home Office above all you can leave a much more permanent footprint."

Though he was Chancellor himself for the final three years of Wilson's first term of office. Jenkins admits that if the administration were judged on economic performance alone, there would be little for Labour supporters to cheer about.

The record of that 1964 to 1970 Labour government, which wasn't all that successful economically - a lot of unpleasant things had to be done and nothing worked until the end of

serve in it have moved on. It's a a great deal more barren than efforts of the man who took lesson be learned from his own it does if it hadn't been for the over his old job. Jack Straw has

> uring his time as Home Secretary, Jenkins enjoyed a largely free hand to pursue his own priorities. "I had a certain amount of

6 I'm afraid I'm not very sympathetic to the policies of the present

But Wilson was really willing to let me do my own thing. I don't think he was strongly in favour of what I introduced, but he

wasn't strongly against."
Such freedom of operation seems remarkable these days. Tony Blair, who shot to public prominence and won nearuniversal praise when he was nothing worked until the end of my Chancellorship – would look close personal attention to the

raised to a virtue his own preference for reflecting popular -

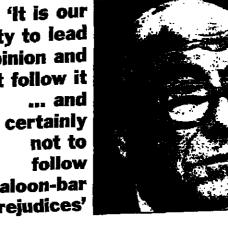
or even populist - opinion on home affairs issues, rather than taking a risk by moving ahead of it in any way. It is an approach Jenkins strongly dis-

shadow Home Secretary 9 Lord Jenkins on Jack Straw containable trouble in Cabinet. agrees with. "I don't think it is a virtue. I think it's the duty of people to lead opinion and not follow it. Sensibly, you've got to

have some regard to being reasonably persuasive and carrying opinion reasonably behind you, but certainly not just to say that you're following all the preju-dices of saloon-bar opinion."

It isn't that Jenkins doesn't intends, he points out that there

duty to lead opinion and not follow it ... and certainly not to follow saloon-bar prejudices'



ultra-cautious strategy. As he acknowledges, he never had the Daily Mail et al waiting to pounce on his every move in quite the same way they would

"Tabloid opinion is probably central. It wasn't nearly as bad then. You have to remember that the most successful tabloid in the Sixties was the Daily Mirror, which pursued a policy which is almost unimaginable now to The Sun or Daily Mail. The Mirror was a very successful popular newspaper, but ... it was constantly concerned to try to elevate the views and tastes of its readers, rather then degrade them."

He nevertheless feels that Labour has unnecessarily boxed itself in by adopting an approach to law and order "geared to propitiating the tabloids" and keeping up with Michael

There is no need to be stuck in a comer," he says. "I forget who the original 'me too'-ist was who it was to, that is. I think it was to one of the Roosevelts, probably Theodore. But it's one thing being 'me too' to Teddy Roosevelt. It's another thing being 'me too' to Michael Howard. So I'm afraid I'm not very sympathetic to the home office policies of the present shadow Home Secretary."

Like many within Labour, Jenkins believes Straw has

doggedly pursued the "me too"
stance for electoral purposes.
"I think he probably does
want to be more liberal in office. I hope so, at any rate," he says. Many of Straw's parliamentary colleagues privately agree. Whether Straw will find it possible to come out of his liberal closet, presuming he is in it now, of course, once Labour wins power is another matter.

"It's quite difficult to pursue a policy of thinking that what you say before you come into office doesn't to some extent determine how you behave in office. You become a bit of a prisoner of your own rhetoric." So how does Jenkins rate Straw's chances of achieving a lasting record as Home Secretary, should Blair give him the job? "If he could greatly reduce crime, that would be a great benefit. But I don't see any evidence that following a little way behind but half in step with Michael

against the view of all informed opinion." But the outlook for libertarians is not all gloomy, he is keen to stress. Concerned that he is sounding a more relentlessly negative note than he perhaps

Howard is likely to do that. It's

is the odd thing Straw promises that Jenkins does positively approve of.

There are one or two of his other policies, obviously, he says. When asked to specify which ones he likes, there is a long pause. "I'm trying to remember," Jenkins explains, pausing again. "There was one thing I saw the other day which was very fair." Another pause. "Oh! It's on homosexual reform," he says finally. Straw has indeed pledged to repeal the controversial Clause 28 powers that prevent local councils from presenting homosexuality in a positive light. "I was surprised at that, perhaps. So I'm not saying it's all wrong, by any means."

That then, without criticising Straw, does Jenkins believe the next government - whichever party forms it - ought to do? This time, there is no hesitation: Well of course, somebody's got to look rationally at drugs at some time." Oh dear. This is another subject on which he is highly unlikely to get any satis-faction from Labour, as Clare Short discovered last year following her mild suggestion that legalisation of cannabis was an idea worthy of debate.

"It won't be touched with a barge-pole," Jenkins accepts. "I haven't considered it in great detail, and I don't say I'm necessarily persuaded in favour of the legalisation of marijuana without question, but nobody

considers it objectively at ail. It seems there is no getting away from the fact that there is more for Jenkins to criticise openly or implicitly - than to praise about Jack Straw as prospective Home Secretary. Then again, this is no surprise given that while in just about all other policy areas Liberal Democrats can live quite happily with New Labour, the greatest philosophical distance between the two parties exists in home affairs.

Jenkins agrees. "I think a government which wants to have enthusiastic support of the still substantial and considerable left-of-centre leaning part of the population would be very wise - particularly if it feels very restricted in the public expenditure field - to pursue a generally liberal, libertarian policy on home affairs matters." But Jenkins best summarises

his attitude with a thought that applies equally to many Labour, as well as Lib Dem, supporters. "I do have very grave doubts about Mr Straw's policies and attitudes," he says. "But that's not enough to make me want another Tory victory."

appreciate the pressure

Labour faces to stick to its Tomorrow: Douglas Hurd talks to Donald Macintyre

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Come to sitcom country, in old Budapest

o anyway, a year or two back I visited Craigmillar Castle on the southern edge of Edinburgh with my nine-yearold son, and I was impressed by the tumbledown air of faded history, though my son wasn't. "Come on, Dad, let's go - this is BORING!" was his only comment.

What neither of us knew was that Craigmillar Castle was soon to be used as a location for the filming of *lvanhoe*, and would be featured for that reason in a Radio Times "Holiday 97" supplement ("Come to Ivanhoe Country!"). If we had known, it would have made all the difference. We would have steered clear and gone somewhere else, he because he has no idea who Ivanhoe was, and I because I can't see the point of visiting the-placewhere-the-programme-was-made and would like to avoid

those who do. I must be in a minority. About once a fortnight I come across articles featuring Avoca, the Irish village in which Ballykissangel is filmed, and I can only assume from the frequency of these articles that people do actually go to

Avoca to see the place where Ballykissangel is filmed. I myself have never seen the TV sitcom Ballykissangel, though I know by now that is yet another of these programmes to the glory of Irish rural life and the endearing nature of old Irish priests (which never seems quite to fit in with the real-life image of Irish rural life being wet, poor and miserable and Irish priests being given to sexual misadventures on such a grand scale that not even the publicity machine of the Irish Catholic Church can cover them up), and I even know by now that Fitzgerald's Bar in the programme is actually called the Fountain Bar in real life, and I truly marvel that such is the power of TV that a) people go to Avoca to see where it was done; b) I cannot prevent myself learning all this useless background info.

Another village which used to be in the news a lot is the one used for Last of the Summer Wine, but that must be so well-known that it isn't worth mentioning any more. Certainly, the Radio Times supplement skates over it and prefers to offer Travel Tip



Kington

articles on "Rebecca Country", "Cadfael Country" and "Wildfell Hall Country". From these you learn that although Rebecca was set by Daphne du Maurier in Comwall, it filmed in South Devon and Hampshire, You can buy The Making of Rebecca from Andre Deutsch for £12.99 if you want the full details, but the detail that sticks in my mind is that the part of Manderley was played by Rotherfield Park in Hampshire. So where IS "Rebecca Country"? Not Cortiwall, that's for sure,

And what about "Wildfell

Hall Country"? "West Yorkshire is the dramatic setting for The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, Anne Brontë's classic novel," says the Radio Times, and then goes on to say without embarrassment that West Yorkshire is never seen on screen, as it was filmed entirely in Lancashire, Oxfordshire and Cumbria. Worse is to come in "Cadfael Country", because the ITV series Cadfael, about the medieval detective monk at Shrewsbury Abbey, "was filmed entirely on location in and around Budapest".

So if you board a coach promising you a few days in "Cadfael Country" you will logically find yourself driving across Europe to Hungary's capital, a place which has nothing in common with the monastic life of Shropshire except that bits of it look like bits of Shropshire. And you will find yourself mingling with coachloads of people who have come to see "Maigret Country". for it was in Budapest that the watchable Maigret series featuring Michael Gambon was made. which means that in the mad logic of TV tourism, "Cadfael Country" and "Maigret

Country" are exactly the same

As a postscript to this ridiculous business, I should like to mention that last December I floated the idea of setting a TV sitcom in a fictional Cotswold village which was perpetually being used as a location for films. I even invented a character, the Retired Colonel, who spent half his time inveighing against the film companies and the other half taking as much money from them as possible.

Not long afterwards, I had a call from a local company which actually fixes film location work in the vicinity,

Enjoyed the piece," said a lady's voice, "but how on earth did you know the Colonel?"
"The Colonel?" I said. "I made him up."

Marian, 🐗

the last

"Ob no you didn't," she said. "We know him well. He lives at ..." She named a well-known village. "We are always having run-ins with him. He is exactly as you describe."

So there we have it. A new TV sitcom, just waiting for someone to commission me. set in the Cotswolds, Though I don't think we'd actually film it in the Cotswolds. I like the sound of Budapest better.

the commentators

A few hot tips to spice up the economy

weeks which convinces US magazine editors that London is the place to be. The Spice Girls duly and deservedly won their gong at the Brit Awards, and London Pashion Week is achieving wall-to-wall coverage in the newspapers. the hype, a lot of eco-nomic activity is taking

Y 1887 - THE INDEPENDENT

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To many people, pop music and fashion may seem manifestations of a candyfloss economy: that somehow it is wrong that we have created jobs in the clubs and on the catwaiks rather than in the factories that make real things. It is very difficult to change the views of

people who think that way, perhaps because they seem to want to make a moral statement about the nature of work rather than take a practical view of what the market seems to want to buy. If, on the other hand, ou incline towards the

Genkins beliefe t US magazines' judgement that something field covernment - whatespecial is happening to points forme it sought we this segment of the This time, there is no hestage British economy, then Well of course conducti here are three facts which demongot to leach rationally atdags strate the importance of the enterwome time. On dear The tainment industry in all its many amorther subject on which be forms. The first two come from the highly military to get an @

> ing from. Number one is that the US entertainment industry has created more jobs since 1990 than the automobile manufacturers, pharmaceutical firms and hotel industry combined - and this despite the fact that the last six years have been very successful for

US where the trend is even more

developed, but they make the point

about where the new jobs are com-

all three industries.

Two is that the US spects industry (which includes sports entertainment, sports clothing and so on) is far larger than previously reported and is now the 11th largest industry in the US, ahead of chemicals and electronics and just behind tele-

communications. Three, which comes from the UK. is that two of the largest (maybe the two largest) new fortunes built here in the last 20 years, that of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber and Richard Branson, were both based on the entertainment industry.

It seems that entertainment, along with financial services and information technology, has become one of the great drivers of growth and employment in mature, developed countries such as the UK and US. If this is right, it has profound implications for public policy. The usual principle of marketing is to reinforce success. What should we do, as a country, to reinforce this success? What do we do to create opportunities for more success stories like

the Spice Girls?
Industrial policy has such a dreadful record in the UK that anyone suggesting that there might be a role for government has to tread carefully. Even now, more than 40 per cent of the budget of the Department of Trade and Industry (£1.4bn) goes on trying to rectify past failure: in sup-



nuclear power. But

here are five sugges-

tions for a government eager to help

develop the UK role

in the world enter-

been squeezed through the 1980s as

ury, but from an eco-

nomic point of view it

ought to be part of the core curriculum

It is the basic building

block for a successful

pop music industry. The relationship be-

tween the sort of

music that will be

taught and the sort

that wins the Brit

Awards may seem tenuous, but it isn't.

The only other coun-

try, aside from Britain

and the US, to have

significant net exports

from pop music is

Sweden, and many

One, spend money on teaching music in schools. This has

tainment industry.

Hamish **McRae**

The Britwinning Spice Girls show what the UK is good at so why not invest in this kind

Swedish people attribute this to the emphasis on teaching Two, spend money on teaching sport. Sport is a winner of success? takes all" business: being good to average may be fun, but it does not capture

global markets. With a population of 58 million we ought to be making a more significant impact on the big internationally traded sports. One area where we do, motor racing, should be a model for other sports. Three, spend money on promoting education for art, fashion and

design. This is not big money: just a case of feeding small amounts into training to make sure that we extract all the talent latent in the country. Four, remove bureaucratic block-

ages. No lastingly successful indus-try will want subsidies, but govern-ments- can unwittingly damage industries by obstructive bureaucracy. For example: Britain ought to be a prime location for filming, and it has been gaining market share. But film-makers complain that local authorities here are not as helpful as they would be in the US at smoothing the way for film crews.

Five, look at tax. That is not an incantation to a new Labour government to do a deal with Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber. It is to point out that the entertainment industry is very tax-sensitive and it might make more sense to spend a little money in tax breaks designed to keep the UK industry here rather than give more money to the Koreans to build some electronics plant.

This is not a grand, top-down business where the key players are all committee members of the CBI. It is a rough, bottom-up business - or rather a collection of very different businesses, some big, some small, united only by the talented people who work there. You cannot plan that. There is no role for a Ministry of Popular Entertainment. What you have to do is to give these talented people space to follow their own entrepreneurial instincts. Politicians should listen to entertainers - not what they say about polities, but what they say about their

Galileo, Copernicus – and now Dolly!

by Andrew Marr

حكذا من الاحل

n the past few days, we have lived through a change in the human condition as momentous as the Copernican revolution or the splitting of the atom. In the sheepish gaze of Dolly from Edinburgh, awesome possibilities glitter. We can imagine, just a little, how it must have felt to be a Tuscan lesuit reading Galileo's Dialogue Jesuit reading Galileo's Dialogue on astronomy, or a pious Londoner settling down 250 years later with a first edition of Origin of Species.

Ian Wilmut, the whisky-sipping, hill-walking embryologist who led the team at Edinburgh's Roslin Institute which created Dolly by cloning, has downplayed the implications. You could done humans, he admits – "but all of us would find

that offensive". No doubt. But humans will be cloned, and probably soon. Not here - the making of Dolly was a great achievement for British science, but the UK is also one of a handful of countries with thoughtthrough legislation which bans

Yet if it can be done, it will be done. The human instinct to experiment and explore cannot and will not be reined in by legislators, commissions or priests. (Ask Galileo.)
There are serious difficulties still

But now that Dr Wilmut and his colleagues have destroyed the assumption that cells could only be used to grow the organs from which they came (so that liver cells produced only the proteins and cells needed for livers, and so on, with the rest of the genes switched off), the main barrier to cloning a human adult has suddenly fallen. There is no way to say this nicely. But biologically - not intellectually - there is little difference between Dolly and the average pendent reader.

We must therefore work on the assumption that cloned humans will be created within a few years and start to think through the consequences. It is not simply that cloning throws up the possibility of strange meetings — of genetically identical humans separated by 20 or 40 years or of the reproduction of particularly talented human animals, as if in a delicate factory

Cloning seems to challenge the deep ideas of self, identity and soul on which human society has relied throughout history. Some deny this - this week, a Jesuit priest and geneticist, Dr Kevin FitzGerald, was quoted by the New York Times arguing that because humans are the result of their environment, as well as their genes, clones would have unique souls.

Yet we are only just beginning to absorb the knowledge of just how much of our personalities, choices and behaviour are genetically programmed. In our Sunday paper, Tom Wolfe recalled the image of Edward O Wilson, the founder of sociobiology, who described the human brain as an exposed negative waiting to be slipped into developer liquid: "The print is the individual's genetic history, over thousands of years of evolution and there is not much anybody can do about it." Many of our moral "choices" are already printed on the hypothala-mus and limbic regions of the brain. This is the intellectual context

surrounding the Edinburgh breakthrough in cloning. And cloning is "like" the Copernican-Galilean revolution, or Darwin's discovery of



bles mankind. In religious terminology, we are both blessed and damned: we have the brilliance, the biological specialness, to understand our own ordinariness.

It is a glorious paradox. Like sociobiology and evolution, cloning both a human triumph and an undiguified moment of biological self-recognition. As a species, we come from apes. As individual members of it, we are heavily pre-programmed

Now we can reoroduce ourselves without sex, with a piece of our own skin, or hair. because our history is written in DNA, which is not unique to humans – we share

The question is, will it change us? Will it release amoral, barbaric

In the hostile camp we can find both religious fundamentalists and open-eyed liberals, who point to this century's hideous dabblings with eugenics. President Clinton has dered a commission to investigate the Edinburgh discovery and, as US corporations scrabble to find ways of investing in it, pronounces him-

self "deeply troubled". In Britain, David Shapiro, executive chairman of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, argues that eugenics and embryo research is open to

himself might feel particularly strongly as a Jew born in 1934. There is a deep-seated feeling which I myself share, that one's whole notion of individuality of human beings might be lost, with quite unpredictable consequences: if

you can bank human material, would you cease to value human life?" In a world where the possibility of aborting foctuses with gay genes

legal cuthana criminality are openly **6** Cloning is discussed, Shapiro paradox: a

a glorious

has a point. The cloning of specially gifted or wealthy peo-And why? Partly numan triumph ple could be seen as the other side of a looming Dark Age

that humbles mankind 9 for post-Enlightenment man. It is one

important genes not simply with sheep, but simply with sheep, but with yeast, for goodness sake. So much for the godly relative of angels, suspended above mere nature.

Supplied the fittest of the fittest. It is quite another for banks or political leaders to do so. This line of thinking will lead, in time, to calls for a worldwide ban on

numan cloning and the withdrawal of funds from all such research. But, as I have already suggested, this will be futile. So perhaps, instead, we will have to learn to live with it, as we have with the nuclear bomb. And there is a positive pro-cloning argument, quite apart from the use to medicine of drug-producing ani-mals. The novelist Fay Weldon, whose book The Cloning of Joanna May confronted some of the issues,

thinks of it as an escape from fate.
"I don't see that nature has done such a good job that we can't improve on it ... I think it is rather primitive of us to be so fearful of ourselves." She suggests, only halfjokingly, that one day, instead of rewarding great achievers with peerages, the government will give them cloning certificates.

Certainly, the history of science gives little cause for optimism among those who would use political authority to ban new thinking, or new research. Tom Wilkie, the Independent writer who has moved to the Wellcome Trust as senior policy analyst, points out that the "yuk factor" tends to dominate early reactions to biological advance - but then moral attitudes evolve. For instance, until 1950 it was considered immoral and was illegal to use the corneas of dead people to save the sight of the living. (The law was changed after a campaign by the then science editor of the Daily Mirror.) Now it is considered almost as

In the end, I find it difficult to believe that we cannot live with our

moral not to carry a donor card.

own growing skill. Moral codes can depend as well on an understanding of own origins, wiring and organic connection with the rest of the living world, as on older, fiercely contested beliefs about divinity and fate. Science can make you humble as well as arrogant; religion can make you arrogant as well as humble.

Galileo, after all, was considered a heretical menace to faith and morality - the sentence passed by the Inquisition was only finally retracted in October 1992 And Charles Darwin was thought to be a herald of the death of human dignity.

But we have somehow survived even our own growing understanding. Soon, the first human created from a piece of skin will be born. And the world will seem to shudden a little, and spin on. And we will find the world a little more extraordinary than it seemed the day before, and carry on too, mixing our genes with the help of music, alcohol and eye-contact, rather than needles and petri-dishes.

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Hey, big spenders, this can't go on

Britain cannot afford fiscal luxuries until the damage done to its finances has been repaired

turned out to be the Con-servatives' lethal weapon in the last general election campaign. So comforted is the Government by the memory of what arousing voters' fears of Labour tax increases accomplished last time around that it would like to The state of the s

do so again.

Its problem is that it cannot take direct aim. New Labour has gone to enormous lengths to shed the party's old tax-and-spend image, with some success. More important, there is the embarrassing matter of the tax increases the Government itself imposed right after the last election. It can scarcely make the same pledge again without stretching credulity.

The Conservatives have therefore resorted to vague allusions to jam at some stage well after election day, combined with a sweetener in the form of a penny off income tax on 1 April. During the next Conservative term, we are told, the basic rate of income tax would fall to 20p in the pound, and capital gains tax and inheritance tax would be abolished - when affordable. After all, we are talking about the party

of prudent economic management. So prudent, in fact, that the National Debt has doubled since John Major became prime minister, and for the past two Budgets Kenneth Clarke has had to postpone the date when he

abour's tax bombshell" revenues to be in balance. This record makes the Government's tax-cutting pledges as trustworthy as a pension salesman's patter when he promises you a retirement spent on a cruise ship.

Despite the penny reduction in the basic rate of income tax last year and this, the share of tax revenues in the economy has risen by just over 1 per cent of GDP since the last election. That is equivalent to £7.5bn; or more than 4p on income tax. Privately, Conservative politicians

will admit that mistakes were made prior to May 1992, requiring this dose of unpleasant medicine afterwards. Although they cannot say so publicly, they distance themselves from the earlier tax bribes.

Disowning recent history is meant

to make it plain that there is a new era of responsible economic manage ment. The implication is that when the next Conservative government resumes its tax-cutting agenda, it will deliver lower taxes that last.

This agenda will look very plausible during the next few months. The latest figures for government borrowing, the shortfall between income and expenditure, were surprisingly good. The economy is expanding fast enough for tax revenues to flood into spects government spending and good position in the short term.



by Diane Coyle



ernment finances will require more painful corrective surgery. Either higher taxes or spending cuts are necessary now in order to put them on a sound and sustainable footing to borrow two of the Chancellor's favourite adjectives. For if there is any time when the government should be running a budget surplus, it is now, after five years of economic recovery. Instead, last year it was in the red to the tune of nearly one-twentieth of

national output. In his Dictionary of Received Ideas, Gustave Flaubert set out a taxonomy of conventional wisdom. His entry for Budgets was short: "They never balance." This 19th century complacency anticipated the Keynesian economists' view that government borrowing is a good thing. It pumps up the economy, permits growth in public expenditure; and, besides, reducing it is difficult.

But politicians, backed by expert opinion, have rediscovered fiscal orthodoxy. Over the course of a business cycle the government should not borrow too much. Some would say that its budget should actually balance over the course of several years.

It is the experience of massive borrowing that has prompted this swing in opinion. Britain's doubled national

But any post-election tax cuts would be ephemeral. By the time the next recession comes along the govborrowing have led to interest rates much higher than they would otherwise need to be. There is a danger of falling into a vicious circle of having to borrow more simply to meet debt interest payments, a trap the Italian ernment has fallen into.

One independent economist, Mar-tin Weale at the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, has called for an improvement through higher taxes of up to £14bn - more than 7p on income tax - in the government's financial position to get back to a sustainable path. The Chancellor tried yesterday to divert atten-tion to holes in Labour's financial plans, but the problem is of the Government's own making.

Much as we would all like to pay less tax, it is a luxury that should not even be discussed until the financial damage has been repaired. Then would be the time to investigate the Conservative view that a shrinking tax burden is desirable. For the time being, it is not remotely sensible.

A prudent Chancellor would set improving finances in the run-up to the general election against their inevitable worsening later. The Conservatives have not found a way of balancing the books that has somehow escaped the Opposition's notice.

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Austin Wright

Austin Wright found his language as a sculptor in the forms of plants, in the human figure and in the folds of the Yorkshire landscape. He was brought up in

Cardiff, of English Quaker parents, and although there were youthful stirrings of a desire to become a sculptor, he nevertheless took an orthodox route and read Modern Languages at New College. Oxford, and trained to become a teacher. His first posting, at The Downs, near Malvern, in 1934, set him in a school which was unique for its freedom of expression - W.H. Auden taught English; the art master, Maurice Feild, brought an exhibition of Dada to the school. The painter Patrick George, then a pupil, recalled that on Sundays "we remembered we were a Quaker school and sat in silence on rushcovered chairs for what seemed a very long time". When not tak-ing French and German lessons, Wright taught painting and sculpture at The Downs; and, as a gesture to his friend and colleague, acted as witness at Auden's wedding in Malvern to Thomas Mann's daughter

York, the city and county that became his home for the rest of his life. While teaching modern languages at Bootham School during the day, he taught art in the evenings, and felt his way as a sculptor. He approached Henry Moore for advice and encouragement, and recalled being told, quite bluntly, just to get on with it. Moore gave him a practical tip - that the edge of a piece of broken glass was good for finishing curved surfaces. There are echoes of both Moore and Barbara Hep-

worth in Wright's early figure

In 1947, the English photogra-pher Ursula Powys-Lybbe set

off for the Australian outback.

Fresh from a career as a

portraitist of London high so-ciety, she offered the services of

her aptly titled "Touring Cam-

era" to the isolated home-

steaders of the bush country. Uninhibited by her surround-

ings, she provided home por-

traiture with panache for those who had long since abandoned

urbanity.
Travelling and living in her

unwieldy but rugged ex-army

Dodge command car, Powys-

Lybbe enjoyed an idyll of free-

dom. With her partner, the

Australian broadcaster Clare

Mitchell, she delighted in the

unconventionality of her life,

and exulted in her indepen-

dence. In the bush, she discov-

ered an eerie world. The mysterious landscape of the

outback contrasted fantastical-

ly with the stolidness of the

draped drawing-rooms-which,

decades out of date, and forever

English, presented themselves

Out and about with her

Rolleiflex when the portrait

sessions were over, Powys-

Lybbe made an Australian doc-

umentary which was cogent

and assured. The skeletal forms

of dead gum trees, robust farm-

ers seen in silhouette across the

sheep range, the tawdry facades

daily to her camera.

In 1937 Wright moved to

sculpture, but gradually the tall, attenuated, skeletal forms that became characteristic of Wright developed, and these began to set him apart from his

contemporaries. As a conscientious objector, Wright remained in Yorkshire during the Second World War, continuing to teach at Bootham when the school was evacuated to Helmsley. This lengthy contact with the North Riding landscape was the beginning of a lifelong romance with the hills and valleys of his adopted

Wright did what he could as an artist in the English provinces after the war to make London sit up and take notice. He exhibited small lead figure groups in Cork Street, and hoped for more exposure there; he took part in the LCC Holland Park Sculpture Exhibition in 1957 and was included in a British Council touring exhibition to Scandinavia and South America, where he won the Acquisition Prize at the Sao Paulo Biennale. He was noticed in particular by Charles Sewter, who wrote in the Manchester Guardian in 1955: "It would not be outrageous, far from it to claim that Austin Wright is the most gifted sculptor working in Britain today.

Perhaps because he doggedly refused to move to London - he had married and had a young family by now - Wright's work tended to evade the concentrated focus of the London art world. He began to have oth-er priorities, which would not be helped by close contact with the mainstream. After a brief but productive period of melting figures from concrete, Wright discovered in the early 1960s the sculptural potential of

It had many advantages, among them extreme ductility which allowed thinner, more apparently fragile forms. And it was cheap, light to use and carearthbound materials of lead and concrete was for Wright like being sprung into the air. "It projects its lightness," he said of

ry. Being released from the aluminium. "It speaks out to any form of light in the sky. Come out into the garden and it chirps in a startling way."

During this period Wright took a renewed interest in plant

forms, most productively when he was Gregory Fellow in Sculp-ture at Leeds University, 1961-62, and in another characteristic motif based on the relationship of the human hip and torso. These sources naturally intermingled, reaching mature expression in Moon (1962, Leeds City Art Gallenies) and Ring and Wall (1964, Bretton Hall College). Other work simply reflected his joy at being alive. He windmilled his arms and gave a whoop of joy the moment he heard that he had sold a major work to an American collector that whoop became Ring, a sculpture that could only possibly be made in aluminium so delicate, so fleeting that, like a soap-bubble or the gesture Wright spontaneously flung out that day in 1965, it practically isn't there.

Wright's sculpture was made not in a studio - there was no such place - but in the barn and long garden behind his house outside York. From the chaos in the barn ideas for eloquent, elemental forms appeared. The ring form, for example, evolved to the scale of the monumental Two Rings (1975-77), sited briefly but majestically on the Yorkshire Moors above Helmsley until it February 1997.

was cut down and stolen for

scrap.

His garden became Wright's primary source of inspiration. He drew there messantly, making sheet after sheet of broad, open drawings of the form of the laurel leaf or of his apple trees which developed as material for sculpture. When York University awarded him an Honorary Degree in 1977, he made, extempore, a speech that defined his passion for the Yorkshire landscape:

It is the one place that I needed to return to to work. I could take all the journeys to fabled Shiraz and Samarkand without meaning. I am no tourist. It is here. I have always believed that, artistically, the real thing is under your feet.

Despite his 60-year immersion among the people and inflexions of Yorkshire, Wright always retained a Welsh lilt to his voice, and Welsh turns of phrase: "Let's have a look-see," he would say as he opened an old sketch-book. If he had been in the thick of the national art world in the 1950s and 1960s (and there are those in Yorkshire who have ritually mourned that), the Austin Wright we now know would not existed. Those rare, febrile plant forms, those noble rings would have become too knowing, too concerned with speaking an international language to have preserved their innocence.

Discovering Wright has been like discovering evidence of a whole new school of art developing in parallel with the known world, a new country on a new

James Harsilton

Austin Andrew Wright, sculptor: born Chester 4 June 1911; married 1945 Susan Midgley (one son, two daughters); died York 22

out her long and successful

During a life which involved

much roaming - to Egypt in the

Thirties, to Australia after the

Second World War - she clung

tenaciously to the structure and

order of family photography.

Eschewing the chic of a nattily

decorated studio in Bond Street

or Berkeley Square, by the mid-Thirties, she had become

itinerant. As the "Touring Camera", she became adept at pho-

tographing Society at Home. To the satisfaction of both por-

traver and portraved, her visits

to country estates and town

mansions produced pictures

of lives untrammelled by exi-

gency, untroubled by moderni-ty. Strong chins, aquiline noses, and a profusion of handsome

pets dominate this early work.

Heady with an ominous part-

nering of glamour and power,

her characters inhabit a secret

Powys-Lybbe was unknown

within the constellation of

British avant-garde photography

in the Thirties. While Beaton

persuaded Cunards and Sitwells

to gyrate to his commands, and

Dorothy Wilding turned starlets

into madonnas of desire, Powys-

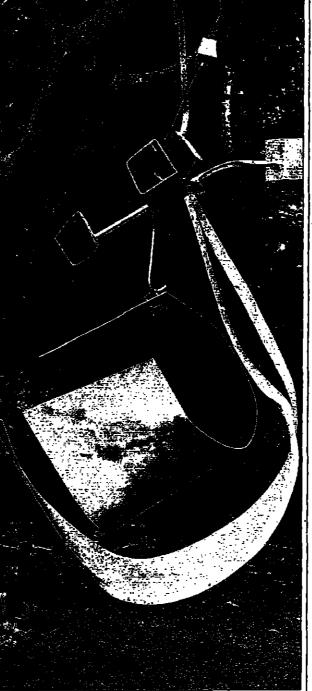
Lybbe was content to allow her

sitters to position themselves

among favourite objects, in their everyday clothes. When she walked into the offices of

and exclusive world.

Ursula Powys-Lybbe



the Tatler in 1937, with a com-

posite portrait of Lady Mary

Lygon which showed not only

womanly beauty but also some

of the most appealing aspects of

being rich, the magazine

promptly commissioned her to

produce a series. To her great

delight, it ran until the outbreak

of war. Modish and stylish

(though highly traditional in outlook), the photographs pre-

sented an image of High Society which was exactly suited to

the times. Modern, but without

challenge to the status quo,

sitters gazed from their portraits

invulnerable in their own

WAAF and took part in pho-

tographic interpretation at

Medmenham, identifying 96 -.

virtually all - of the V-1 flying-

bomb launching sites, an expe-

rience she later described in The

Eye of Intelligence, published in

After the war, Powys-Lybbe

returned to portraiture with

undiminished enthusiasm. Im-

patient with post-war cultural

angst, she eagerly seized new

opportunities. As plain Ursula

Powys, she happily abandoned

Mayfair salons for the bushland

of New South Wales, where she

had originally travelled to join

her recently wed husband.

When the marriage swiftly fell

apart, she embarked on new

During the war she joined the

fashionability.

Photograph: Jerry Hardman-Jones

photographic projects, along with Clare Mitchell, who had

interviewed her on the radio.

eventual return to England in the late 1950s coincided with the

collapse of studio portraiture in

Britain. It was not until she was

in her seventies that her work was again seen in public. Showing in the National Museum of

Photography's Women Photographers exhibition in 1986,

the style and subject-matter of

her work became the subject

of energetic debate. A buoyant,

confident and irascible woman,

she furiously opposed all

within a feminist context.

attempts to place her work

In her Thirties photography,

Ursula Powys-Lybbe created a

compelling picture of an Eng-

lish Dream. Mirage-like now,

the young men and ladies of her

portraits are without ambiva-

lence. Through the lens of her

camera, their aspirations, their

vanities, their pleasures and

their achievements are eter-

nally celebrated. With her ad-

miring and innocent gaze, she

created an elegy for elegance.

Ursula Margot Powys-Lybbe,

photographer: born Streatley, Berkshire 27 November 1910; married 1947 Druce Buckland;

died Danehill, Sussex 13 January

Val Williams

It was unfortunate that her

Tony Williams

Jazz musicians tend to regard drummers as a necessary evil. A quintet might be described as consisting of four musicians and a drummer. More good jazz performances have been ruined by loud drummers than they have even by banjo

Occasionally the genius comes along who proves the rule - Jo Jones, Dave Tough, Buddy Rich, Max Roach, Philly Joe Jones, Tony Williams. These men were all drummers whose craftsmanship and instinct for the music transcended those of the horn players and pianists who would normally be more sensitive. Of these perhaps Buddy Rich and Tony Williams stood out as supernaturals. Williams was an intuitive ac-

companist whose work in that respect has correctly and often been described as astounding. Like Buddy Rich he was at home at lightning tempos and his accuracy at speed remained without flaw. He eschewed the customary accenting of alternate beats with the hi-hat cymbals and instead rebuilt the whole technique his own way. He largely abandoned conventional playing early on, and considered that it wasn't important for a drummer to keep time, always the first consideration in other branches of jazz. His solo playing was unusually expressive and full of drama.

For no particular reason, good drummers are often small men. Tony Williams certainly was, and yet he was so power-ful that he was able to influence and direct the playing of one of the greatest of all jazz figures, the trumpeter Miles Davis.

Anthony Williams, as he was known when he first came to fame, was born in Chicago, but moved with his parents to Boston when he was about two years old. He became a child prodigy of the drums, beginning to play when he was nine. His father, a saxophonist, took him to sit in with the bands at the local jazz clubs, and by the time he was 11 he visited the clubs on his own.

"My father wanted me to play, but my mother didn't go for it. In a way he opposed my being a professional musician. He never tried to discourage me, but he didn't want me to go too far into it that it hurt me in my school studies. I was never there - or I was there but I wasn't doing the work. That was in 1962. I was working with Sam Rivers."
Williams had begun his stud-

ies with another drummer, Alan Dawson (who later became the drummer in the Dave Brubeck Quartet and taught at Berklee Photograph: Val Wilmer College of Music), while he was still at junior high school. Williams was hardly into his teens when he began working with Sam Rivers, a radical, potent and severely undervalued jazz musician who played all the saxophones and later, like Williams himself, was to join Miles Davis (by then at Williams's recommendation).

Williams had just turned 17

when he sat in with the alto saxophonist Jackie McLean (yet another Davis alumnus) in Boston. McLean was so impressed that he asked the drummer to join his quintet in New York. It was when McLean's band played a concert in the spring of 1963 that Miles Davis first heard him. Davis recalled the occasion as being rather moving: "I heard this great little 17-year-old drummer who was working with Jackie McLean, named Tony Williams, who just blew my fucking mind he was so bad [i.e. good]. Man, just hearing that little motherfucker made me excited all over again. Trumpet players love to play with great drum-mers and I could definitely hear right away that this was go-ing to be one of the baddest motherfuckers who had ever played a set of drums. Tony was

After confirming his opinion

of Williams with Philly Joe Jones, Davis moved swiftly to hire him. The impact on the Davis hand was instant, as Davis acknowledged: ... the direction the band was moving revolved around Tony".

Williams had many revolutionary ideas and he was inspired by the ground-breaking avant-garde of the saxuphonist Ornette Coleman (a musician for whom Davis had rather less respect). He also loved the music of John Coltrane and of those musicians who were prepared to take chances, even if it meant wrong notes or musi-cal disaster. For this reason Williams felt animosity towards Davis's cautious but gifted tenor saxophonist George Coleman, and warfare broke out in the band between them until Coleman, perhaps wisely, decided to stand no more and left.

When Williams had joined, Davis's most innovative and effective rhythm section ever, consisting of the planist Herbie Hancock, bassist Ron Carter and Williams, had come to gether. It criss-crossed the world with Davis and his brilliant tenor sax player Wayne Shorter over the next four years, as the band played and recorded some of the most potent and influential music of the second half of the century. Albums like Filles de Kilimanjaro (1968) and In a Silent Way (1969) were part of a library of classics built up for Columbia. They also superintended the beginning and the best of electronic music in jazz. as Williams became, along with the composer and bandleader Gil Evans, one of the main authorities on Davis's music.

Williams and Hancock wanted to lead groups of their own. so they left Davis at the end of 1968. "It had been a great learning experience for every-one," said Davis. "Although it was hard for me when they left me, it really was time for all of us to move on. We left each other in a positive place and that's all you can ask for."



Williams formed a trio. Lifetime, with the guitarist John McLaughlin and the organist Larry Young. He began to record for the Blue Note label in an association which was to last until his death. Although it survived for some time, Lifetime was not commercially successful. Williams's penchant at this time was for heavily amplified guitar and rock rhythms. After a couple of years away from jazz, Williams formed another band in 1975, but this too proved not to be durable.

In 1976 Williams, Wayne Shorter and Herbie Hancock came together again in a group which they called VSOP. They reformed sporadically over the years and in between Williams also played and recorded with Sonny Rollins, Hank Jones, Wynton Marsalis and bands of his own.

He became more ambitious and began writing for his bands. and by the time he recorded his Neptune suite in 1991 he was becoming a composer of some

Steve Voce Anthony Williams, drummer and bandleader: born Chicago 12... December 1945; married; died Daly City, California 23 February 1997.

Christopher Hohler

One important area of Christopher Hohler's work which Alan Borg's otherwise excellent obituary [19 February] did not adequately reflect is his contribution to liturgical scholarship. writes David Chadd.

The majority of Hohler's published papers, and many of his most perceptive reviews, were within this field. This was an area to which he devoted

himself throughout his life and in which he made himself an unrivalled master. It was as if medieval liturgical history, with its formidable technical difficulties and its vast array of sources, potentially touching upon every part of intellectual and imaginative life, offered both the sort of challenge which he needed

Lady Mary Lygon, 1937

of small towns - all were objects

Each of his articles contained enough allusive reference to source material to provide the meat for four or five papers by lesser scholars. Some of his lasting contribution to the subject was more real than apparent, being chiefly in the encouragement of others' work.

Photograph: National Portrait Gallery

comradeship. From the yel-

lowing snapshots emerged a

In 1952 he was elected to membership of the Henry Bradshaw Society, which has exist-

ed since 1890 to publish editions it into shape. His own proof rare liturgical texts, and from 1954 until his death he served effectively a collaborating editor, and one at least would not have appeared had he not, with typical self-effacement. dropped what he was doing and mastered its own material with

sufficient thoroughness to put

posed magnum opus for the society – a new critical edition of the Sarum Ordinal - foundered (he claimed) when he finally realised that he would never get to see the most geographically far-flung of its 200 or so

manuscript sources. But that piece of perfectionist diffidence, when lightly scratched, revealed an aston

ishingly extensive and detailed knowledge which could only have been acquired though thousands of patient hours spent in making transcriptions and notes (his archive is legendary) which were then pieced together into a series of breath-takingly imaginative and intricate patterns, each to be tested against his larger view of the

on its Council. In a number of the society's volumes he was

and the promise of the richest

Looking through the pages of her family photograph album and gracious world. It was a

in 1986, Ursula Powys-Lybbe childhood utopia, and one remembered her girlhood as to which her photographs a glowing time of vitality and continuously referred, through-

26 February 1997

of the Housing Act 1985 or to social security benefits such as income support and housing benefit. Nor were they allowed to take employment. It was accepted that they might receive treatment from the National Health Service. The question was whether they were also entitled to relief under section 21(1)(a). Michael Belaff QC with Clive Jones (C Wilson, Westminster) and with Nigel Giffin (C.T. Mahone); Hammersmith,

housing assistance under Part III Poor Law and was a prime example of an Act which was "always speaking". Accordingly, it should be construed by continuously updating its wording to allow for changes since the Act was written.

my first choice."

The councils argued that the purpose of section 21(1)(a) was not to provide money or accommodation for those who needed it per se, but for those who required care and attention. Asylum seekers' needs were for food and accummodation, not for care and attention and consequently, the councils argued, they could not avail themselves of section 21(1).

That was too broadly stated. The fact that asylum seekers had a need for food and accommodation which, but for the 1996 Act, would be met under other statutory provisions did not mean they could not qual-

resulted in their needing care and attention,

One of their problems was that they had to sleep rough and go without food. That could bring about illness and disability which could result in their needing care and attention "which is not otherwise available to them".

The destitute condition to which asylum seekers could be reduced as a result of the 1996 Act coupled with the period of time which it took for their applications to be decided, meant inevitably that they could fall within a class that local authorities could properly regard as being persons whose needs they had a responsibility to

meet under section 21(1)(a). However, section 21(1) was not a salety net on which any one who was short of money or accommodation could rely. It was for the local authority to decide whether each applicant onalified.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

MASH: On 21 January 1997, at St Mary's Paddington, to Camilla (nee de Sousa Turner) and Julian, a son, Harry Edmund Vere, a brother for Christabel and James.

DEATHS

ROWNTREE: Kenneth. (Painter). on 21 February, in his 82nd year, Beloved husband of Diana, father of Adam and Sasha, Kenneth left his body to medical science. A celebration of his life will be held at the University of Newcayle in March, 01434 633626.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, I Counda Square, Canary Wharf, London E145DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2012 or freed to 0171-293 2010. Charges are £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

cular Genetics, Edinburgh University, ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS (YARNS) at the Unchante Library, London SW I. The Princetas Bayasi, President. British Ratting and Cleth-ing Export Council, adequal the London Fundion Week of the Natural Hestony Mencius. Landon SW7: as Posident, the Putsons Royal That for Cases, housel-cy Canadac Cletts Cratter's belonguistics Resident of Case-(Canadac Cletts Cratter's belonguistics Resident Case-The Buke of Edinburgh, Precident Enterston, World Work Frind he Wattre - WWF International, already a prese outsirement for World Wide Frind for Nature's 1-revis for Left Company, a reception and a dimensional March 18th Company and March 18th Company of the District of World Nature's 18th August 2011, Lowdon WAY, The Primary Widen works about 18th August 2011, Lowdon WAY, The Primary Widen works are presented in the Park of World Nature 18th August 2011, Lowdon WAY, The Primary Widen works.

Forthcoming marriages Mr A. G. Houston

and Miss L. L. Gregory The engagement is announced between Alasdair, only son of Mr and Mrs A. Houston, of Greina Green, Dumfries and Galloway, and Lucy, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs N. Gregory, of Appin, Argyll.

Birthdays Lord Bridge of Harwich, a former

Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 80; Mr Peter Carter-Ruck, solicitor, 83; Mr Johnny Cash, singer, 65; Sir Peter Cazalet, deputy chairman, GKN, 68; Mr Antoine "Fats" Domino, singer, 69; Mr David Edgar, playwright, 49; Sir Donald Parquharson former Lord Justice of Appeal, 69; Sir James Goldsmith, MEP and founder of the Referendum Party, 64; Dr Basil Greenhill, Chairman, Centre for Maritime Historical Studies, Exeter University, 77; Professor Noreen Murray, Professor of Mole-

62; Miss Sandie Shaw, singer, 50; Mr Everton Weekes, cricketer, 72.

Anniversaries

Births: Victor-Marie Hugo, author, 1802; William Frederick Cody ("Buffaio Bill"), showman, 1846. Deaths: Roger II, King of Sicily, 1154; Sir Harry Lauder (MacLennan), come-dian, 1950. On this day: the Bank of England issued the first one-pound note, 1797. Today is the Feast Day of St Alexander of Alexandria, St Nestor of Magydus, St Porphyry of Gaza and St Victor or Vittre the Hermit.

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Sally Dormer, "Medieval Altar Pieces", 2_30mm.

Tate Gallery: Fred Orton and Grisel-da Pollock, "How is the Social History of Art to be Written Now?",

omic Affairs, London SWI: Dr Nicholas Barr, "Pri-varising Student Loans: a concrete proposal", 6.30pm.

Antigue, strends a dimer at the Estate Hause, Jam by Ray Clab, Antigue, in aid of the restoration o Concrement House and Carence House. Changing of the Guard The Household Create Mounted Business

Asylum seekers entitled to support from local councils LAW REPORT Conneil and others, ex parte A and others; Court of Appeal

(Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Waite, Lord Justice councils refusing them assis-Asylum seekers who were ex-

cluded by recent legislation from rights to public housing or social security benefits were nonetheless entitled to apply to local authorities for relief under section 21(1) of the National Assistance Act 1948 if as a result of their plight they were "in need of care and attention" which was not otherwise available to them.

Henry) 17 February 1997

The Court of Appeal dis-missed appeals by Westminster City Council, Lambeth London Borough Council, Hammersmith and Pulham London Borough Council and the Secretary of State for Health, and affirmed the decision of Mr Justice Collins on 8 October 1996, granting the four applicants, re-ferred to only as A, P, M and X,

tance under section 21(1) of the 1948 Act (as amended by the Local Government Act 1972, the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977, the Children Act 1989 and the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990).

Section 21 provided: (1) Subject to and in accordance with the provisions of this Part of the Act a local authority may with the ap-proval of the Secretary of State, and to such extent as he may direct, make arrangements for providing: (a) residential accommodation for persons aged 18 or over who by reason of age, illness, disability or any other circumstances are in need of care and attention which is not available to them . . .

The applicants were asylum seekers from Iraq, Romania, Algeria and China. None of them claimed asylum at the point of entry. Under the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 they were

and J. Curran, Lambeth) for the councils; Nigel Pleming QC and Steven Kovats (Treasury Solicitor) for the Health Secretary as interested party; David Pannick QC and Stephen Knaffler (Clore & Co) for the applicants.

Lord Woolf MR said the 1996 Act did not refer to section 21 of the 1948 Act and thus left intact the applicants' rights, if any, under that section. The 1948

judicial review of decisions by the not entitled to either public Act replaced 350 years of the

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business & city BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Union up for sale as era of discount houses reaches end

Banking Correspondent

Union, once one of the most prestigious financial institutions in the City, is up for sale amid expectations of substantial job losses at the company which made its reputation as a discount house.

One of the names in the frame to buy what remains of Union is Joseph Lewis, the Union's languishing share price

Graeme Knox, a non-executive director who is taking over temporarily as chairman of Union, said the company had received several unsolicited bid approaches over the last few weeks and was pursuing discussions with the interested parties, which he declined to name.

up from 86.5p to 95p.

the Christie's auctioneers, who The company, which has already has a 24 per cent stake. Warned it expects to make an in 1992 from Warburg's discount operating loss in 1996 of £1.7m; house. is reorganising the top management. George Blunden, the son of a former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, will leave as group chief executive at the end of the week along with Ian Martin, the

group's finance director... parture follows his own terest rates and is ending the

The discount houses are specialist banks that have traditionally had a monopoly on daily dealings with the Bank of England in tills of exchange. The Bank uses these dealings to set interest rates,

But the Bank is radically re-Mr Blunden's sudden de- structuring the way it sets-inattempts to clean up Union's "privileged position of the City's

discount houses by opening up dealings in short-term money market instruments to a wide range of banks, building societies and securities firms of

UK or continental ownership. Union, which dropped Discount from its name a few years ago, has told the Bank it does not intend to maintain its once privileged dealing position after 3 March, and will wind down its positions over the next few

sions about selling its Glasgowbased equity market-maker Aitken Campbell.

Mr Knox said he would accelerate the current strategy of building fee-based businesses and withdrawing from proprietary trading ones. Union will be left with two main business, Union Fund Management and Union CAL, a derivatives broker.

The remaining parts of

progressively closed down and e assets realised in an orderly fashion." Union said.

This leaves substantial scope for job losses from the firm, which is still shackled to the somewhat grandious group structure which derived from its roots as a discount house.

We are therefore taking steps to reduce substantially the running costs of Union which,

It is also in advanced discus- Union which have had, at best. of necessity, entail the regreta volatile profits record will be table departure of many able and conscientious people for whom there is no longer a role." Union said.

Mr Knox declined to give further details of how many of Union's 170 employees would be affected by the restructuring although vesterday he began a 30-day consultation programme with employees ahead of what is expected to be a "substantial programme of redundancies".

BZW set

to appeal

against

bid ruling

by Panel

BZW, the investment banking

arm of Barclays Bank, is con-

sidering appealing against a

secret provisional ruling made

by the Takeover Panel, the City

body which polices bids, over its controversial role in last year's hostile battle for control of

Northern Electric.
The Panel's 12-strong governing executive is thought to have reached preliminary conclusions about BZW's role as

broker to Northern during its un-successful defence of the £782m

hid from US power generator CalEnergy. It is thought the Panel executive, which is made

up mainly of City professionals

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

NatWest paints cautious picture for UK growth

Banking Correspondent

NatWest painted a cautious outlook for 1998 as it announced pre-tax profits of £1.12bn in 1996 down from £1.75bn. The bank also put an end to speculation that it was in the race to bid for Scottish Amicable by saying the rising price for the mutual life insurer could not be justified.

Nat West's profits fall, widely expected by the market, was the result of a loss of £719m on sale of businesses that included Bancorp, its US banking operation, costs of £186m on the redesign of its UK retail banking oper-ations and a gain of £224m on the sale of its stake in 3i, the venture capital company.

Stripping out the charges, underling profits at NatWest rose by £339m to £1.61bn. However. its share price fell 36p to 776.5p on disappointment that it did not announce plans to return capital to shareholders as Barclays did last week.

In contrast with Barclays, which announced sharply lower profits at BZW, its investment banking arm, NatWest's investment hank produced higher pre-tax profits of £462m, up om £304m. But the result, insions to from £114m to £18m. not proven to be correct.

Overall, NatWest increased its general provisions against bad debts by £50m and made specific provisions of £499m. Lord Alexander, chairman, said Nat West was forecasting a slower pace of economic growth in the UK next year and would therefore adopt a more cautious

Interest rates have to rise. This is our scenario whichever party wins the election," Lord Alexander said.

approach to lending.

Derek Wanless, chief executive, said this would involve a more cautious policy towards lending to small businesses and the construction and property areas. This was the time in the economic cycle - rising growth and rising consumer confidence that banks traditionally "lost it" by increasing lending. NatWest did not intend to fall

into this trap and therefore, based on economic forecasts by David Kern, its chief economist. was preparing for a slower economic growth next year which might make it harder for businesses to repay debts.

"Their management is at odds with what is being preached by management elsewhere," said Peter Toeman, banking analyst at ANM Amro Govett. However, he cluded a fall in bad debt provi- said this did not mean it would year.

Lord Alexander said 1996 was the culmination of the reshaping of NatWest. Its retail bank, which laid off more than 3.000 staff during the year and has plans to make a further 10,000 redundant in the years ahead, included costs of £186m as it shut down more than 300 branches around the

The bank expects to incur a further £100m of costs in retail banking this year to cover the cost

of introducing new technology. Across the entire group, the bank will spend another £100m to reprogramme its computers to deal with the date problem arising from the turn of the

The bank's retail operation recently saw a deal with Tesco to offer banking from its supermarkets fall apart, and Mr Wanless said talks were being held with lawvers about seeking compensation from the supermarket chain. At NatWest Markets, the in-

vestment banking arm, staff costs shot up from £510m to £726m, largely as a result of higher bonuses. Martin Owen, chief executive of NatWest Market, said the

higher figure also reflected the



Characters: Nigel Wray, chairman of Trocadero, is considering doubling the company's Blyton portfolio

Noddy & Big Ears could find themselves spun off into a sep-arate publicly quoted company under plans being considered by Trocadero, the property and leisure group which own the rights to the characters, writes Nigel Cope. Trocadero, run by Nigel Wray

and Nick Leslau, says it would consider floating the Enid Bly-ton portfolio as it develops a broader range of popular children's characters. The company would include Enid Blyton's top works such as The Famous Five

Trocadero toys with idea of Noddy spin-off

ary last year but has already doubled the division's sales and profits as it markets the brands folio has 56 different characters more aggressively both in the

In addition to exploiting the merchandising opportunities provided by Noddy and Big Ears. Trocadero hopes to de-Comment, page 21 | Trocadero paid £14m for the such as Mr Plod the policeman contracts and has reached an in central London.

Enid Blyton portfolio in Janu- so they can have books and storylines of their own Mr Leslau said: "The Blyton portand we are very interested in other intellectual property. We've looked at Sooty and Paddington Bear but nothing

has caught our eve."

greement with the BBC giving Trocadero full control over Nod-dy merchandise and publishing. The plans were unveiled as Trocadero announced its 1996 results which showed the group's net assets per share had

soared from 7.1p to 20.1p. This excludes any valuation of the Enid Blyton catalogue. Gearing has been halved to 87 per cent and group turnover increased by 19 per cent to £10.7m. The upbeat message was

overshadowed by a disappointing performance from Segaworld, the interactive games velop other Toytown characters the company has re-negotiated centre based at the Trocadero

work affiliates broadcasting in

Other industry leaders ques-

tioned the financial implications

on secondment from merchant banks and accountants, is proposing to criticise aspects of BZW's conduct during the bid. The investigation centres on £250.000 "performance fee" which Northern agreed to pay BZW for services during the bid defence. However, the brokers failed to disclose the fee to the Panel when it bought a 2.3 per

cent stake in Northern to bolster its defence. BZW has always ve-hemently denied that the sharebuying, which almost swung the bid outcome, was in any way linked to the performance fee. Complaints about the Northern defence led the Panel to extend the bid deadline, allowing Cal Energy to emerge victorious by

the narrowest of margins. The Panel has already publicly rebuked BZW for not disclosing the fee, but could hypothetically take further sanctions against the bank, including ultimately referring the affair to the City watchdog, the Securities and Futures Authority, All the main participants in the Northern bid have been questioned, including Simon de Zoete, deputy chair-

man of Corporate Broking. However, sources suggested the investigation had been delayed by continuing discussions between BZW and the Panel over the anticipated outcome. The Panel normally "agrees" its findings with those affected before making them public. This was the course taken by the public relations advisers Citigate in their rebuke from the Panel after they leaked confidential information to the press at the height of the Triplex Lloyd hostile bid for rival engineering group William Cook.

In exceptional cases companies can "appeal" against these preliminary rulings to a hearing of the Panel itself. This involves a separate committee, usually of 10 or more City professionals, A BZW spokesman last night declined to comment. never discuss speculation," he said. However, the organisation is thought to be debating whether to mount an appeal.

EMU 'backed by bond yields'

Yvette Cooper

Bond dealers expect European monetary union to go ahead on time, according to the Bank of England's Governor, Eddie George. Speaking at the Euromoney International Bond Congress in London yesterday, he said: "The fact that yield curves in Germany and France are practically identical is consistent at least with EMU going ahead – at least with a narrow membership."

But at the same conference. leading commercial economists diverged from the bond market view, expressing serious doubts that EMU would go ahead on

The pattern of future bond yields reflects traders' expectations about inflation in the years to come. Yield curves for French and German bonds have con-verged to be almost identical, showing that the markets expect inflation in the two countries to he identical in future too.

Mr George pointed out that five-year forward yields in Italy and Spain remain significantly higher than in Germany and France, "suggesting that early EMU membership [for Italy and Spain] is not at all certain

<u>ftse 100</u>

FTSE 250

FTSE SmallCap 2352.31

FTSE All-Share 2121.62

in the eyes of the market." However considerable convergence has already taken place; the interest rate differential between German and Italian 10vear bonds has fallen by around 4 percentage points in the last two years.

Germany and France also show a steep rise five years down the line. Mr George claimed this "suggests that inflation is expected to be higher in the medium term. That could be associated with expectations of softer macro-economic discipline."

In particular, the Governor said, this could reflect market uncertainty about the strength of the new single currency, and about "how far the European Central Bank will in practice be free to pursue its statutory task of maintaining price stability".

Roger Bootle, chief economist at HSBC, was among the speakers doubtful about EMU going ahead on schedule. "The odds are against it happening on

Simon Briscoe of Nikko Europe rated the chances of a single currency on schedule as 50-50. George Magnus of UBS said the chances were 60 per cent, "but the percentage is falling".

STOCK MARKETS

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Sky boosts US presence with \$1bn pact David Usborne New York

Satellite and cable broadcasters in the US attempted yesterday to shrug off the prospect of fresh and potentially powerful competition from a new alliance be-tween Rupert Murdoch's ASkyB and EchoStar of Colorado.

signed to fill a critical gap in the global jigsaw of satellite services owned by Mr Murdoch, which

trade under the Sky name, faces several hurdles. Satellite TV still lags far behind cable in the US and the Federal Communi-

The deal, under which ASkyB will acquire 50 per cent of EchoStar, could transform the subscription broadcasting industry in the US. It is also decations Commission (FCC) is likely to scrutinise the deal. The issue of foreign ownership, which has dogged Mr Murdoch's broadcast activities in the US, is almost certain to arise again. ASkyB's original US partner, MCI, will have 10

per cent of the venture. MCI, in

turn, is in the process of merging with UK-owned British Telecom.

includes BSkyB in Britain and

But the venture, which will

JSkyB in Japan.

welcome for the \$1bn (£613m) pact from Wall Street yesterday. In early trading in New York, shares of EchoStar were boosted \$8,50 to \$26,50, while Murdoch's News Corporation was also trading higher.

Growth among the four main direct broadcast satellite companies in the US, among which DirecTV is the leader, has recently disappointed analysts. EchoStar, moreover, is the fourth in the pack with only 400,000 subscribers accumulated since its launch last March In combination, however,

players and to the terrestial cable companies. Together, they will hold many more frequencies than any of their competitors, including DirecTV, with a capacity for 500 channels.

prove a highly potent competi-tor both to the other satellite

Most crucially, however, the new company says it will have an ability not enjoyed by the other satellite providers to relay, through new "spot-beaming" technologies, local television services to the largest US markets. Currently, satellite subscribers must use cable boxes or

of such new technologies, however. "There will be an accumulation of costs ... that are going to translate to the consumer in terms of affordability." suggested James Gray, chairman of Primestar, the secondlargest satellite broadcaster.

their own areas.

He also pointed to potential dangers in the FCC review in regards to the large concentration of satellite transponder capacity the new company will control.

Mr Philpott says a Labour gov-

emment should ponder this.

The potential for job losses

as a result of imposing addi-

tional employment standards is

greatest among small firms, but

the report points out that the

Social Chapter is explicit about

the need to avoid harm to small

and medium-sized businesses.

Major's EU employment fears 'overblown'

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

John Major's claim that signing the European Social Chapter would put 500,000 people out of work in the UK was challenged in an independent report vesterdav.

The Prime Minister's assessment was "overblown, inaccurate and unresearched", according to John Philpott, director of the non-partisan think-tank the Employment Policy Institute. EU directives could in fact in-

Money Market Rates

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crease the adaptability of the UK workforce.

The report argues that introducing employment protection legislation on the continental model to the UK would not necessarily destroy jobs. Although it might have this effect in lowwage, hire-and-fire industries, in some sectors it could actually cre-

ate jobs by raising productivity. However, the Labour Party, should consider very carefully the risk that the impact of the Social Chapter would be extended in areas subject to qualified majority voting rather

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INTEREST RATES

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than a unanimous decision. These include health and safety, working conditions and equality. But the study argues that the trend on the Continent is towards less rather than more regulation in these areas.

There is no clear evidence to suggest that employment protection raises total unemployment," Mr Philpott writes. The Prime Minister's claim was not backed by serious analysis. Indeed, increased co-operation between employers and

employees could make the

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and flexible than it is at present, if adopted sensibly. Better conditions could help improve the quality of the labour force. The report accepts that any

move to harmonise wages or benefits across Europe would damage UK job prospects. But it notes that pay, the right of association and right to strike are explicitly excluded from the Social Chapter.

Some matters covered by qualified majority voting, such as health and safety or working

conditions, could impose extra labour market more adaptable costs on British employers, and

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'Given the wariness

of the private sector to get involved in partnership arrangements such as in the Private Finance Initiative,

privatisation may be too compelling to ignore'

Labour should think about a Tube sell-off

question might seem something of an academic one given that the present lot are unlikely to be in power for much longer. For those who are interested in such musings, however, there was not much enlightenment in yesterday's formal statement by the Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, His-back-of-the-envelope sketch of how the sell-off

might work was vague, to say the least.
There are basically three options: sell the network off as a single operation; sell off lines individually, or use the British Rail model with a track company to which different train operators would pay fees. Unsurprisingly, given the looming election and Labour's opposition to privatisation of the Tube, there hasn't been much work done in the City yet on which of these options might yield the best result.

Whatever the outcome of the election, it will not alter the Thibe's severe investment backlog, estimated at about £1.2bn and ris-ing fast. Underground executives have already had to scrap £700m of improvements over the next three years. With Gordon Brown donning his hair shirt over public spending, the Underground can forget about asking for increases in subsidies.

So it may well be that eventually Labour is forced to dust off the privatisation option despite its distaste. The alternative - a series of investment partnerships with private cap-ital – looks both messy and impractical. As, What the bank realised by selling Bancorp

work allowed to raise its own capital through revenue linked bonds, for while this might technically remove the company from the public finances, in truth it doesn't fool anyone. It is just Government borrowing by another name, and expensive borrowing to boot.

If anything, the Tube system is actually easier to privatise than the rail network. "It certainly isn't the kind of basket case the Government makes out," said one invest-ment banker. The Tube had sales last year of £937m, from which it made an operating profit of £130m. It also received state subsidies worth £383m. On paper that makes it a quite bankable proposition; capable of absorbing substantial quantities of debt to fund investment. Not such an academic question after all, it would seem.

NatWest may regret its caution

A complex set of results from a group in Atransition," was how Nick Collier, banking analyst at Morgan Stanley, chose to describe Nat West's results yesterday. A more charitable way of looking at them is that somewhere in there, hidden beneath the confusion of disposals and acquisitions, there could be a good set of results trying to get out.

So let's have a look at what's been hap-

the investment banking operation - Gart-more, Hambro Magan and Gleacher in the US. In capital terms, the amount NatWest raised selling off its remaining stake in 3i paid for provisions for branch closures in its main UK retail banking operation. The cost of dividends and share repurchases was roughly balanced by retained profits from

ontinuing operations.

The net effect of all this toing and froing, then, is a surprisingly uncomplex and neu-tral one. What NatWest made last year, it has now spent in a careful, considered and piecemeal way. The stock market's disap-pointment with the results yesterday was more a reflection of the lack of any proposals for a renewed share buy-back programme than any immediate concern with underly-

ing performance.

There are, however, some worrying clouds on the horizon. One of the outward manifestations is the continuing high cost, relative to revenue, of investment in informa-tion technology. While this is an essential ingredient of modern banking, it highlights an obvious weakness in NatWest's long-term strategy. Once upon a time Nat West was the largest of the big four clearing banks in terms of market capitalisation. But from the Blue Arrow scandal in the 1980s onwards, its approach has been a highly cautious and conservative one, and it now finds itself number four in the hierarchy by quite a long way.

when it is floated later this year. NatWest's reluctance to grasp the nettle and make a quantum leap may prove to have been the wrong approach. The danger for Nat West is that as a middle ranking player, both in retail financial services and investment banking, it will find itself progressively squeezed, neither small enough to thrive in specialist niche markets, nor big enough to compete with the lead players at the commodity end of these bus

Greenspan should try some plain speaking

Aim Greenspan, the most powerful man Aim financial markets, is likely to be a shade more explicit than usual when he starts his twice-yearly Congressional testimony today - the so called Humphrey Hawkins testimony. The man who once complained that if his meaning was clear, he must have been misunderstood, has a clear enough message to get across this time round.

At a minimum, Mr Greenspan is likely to repeat his Christmas warning about the irrational emberance" of US stock markets. After a small hiccup, the Dow swallowed this criticism and has climbed another 11 per cent in just over two months. If it kept up the same pace, it would be approaching the 12,000 Delphic and deliver an una level by next December. The Fed chairman to markets: read his lips.

So how is the Government planning to pri-vatise the London Underground? The too, does a publicly owned Underground net-work allowed to raise its own capital through the most of the control of the con fire another warning shot, flagging up the prospect of an increase in interest rates.

The Fed already has a bias towards tight-ening. Its last published minutes stressed the need for a swift reaction to the first hint of inflationary pressure to counter any ten-dency for "higher inflation expectations to be embedded in financial markets".

What has happened since then is an unmis-takable upward creep in labour costs. Both wages and, even more so, benefits, have been rising for about a year. The pace has accelcrated during the past three months. Other indicators, such as monetary growth, are also flashing amber. So even without the irrational exuberance of stock prices, the chairman of the Fed has quite enough ammunition to justify a rate rise in the near future.

If the stock market reacts to this week's tes-timony with a sizeable correction, it could postpone the day of reckoning. For it is in the price of shares and other assets that the inflationary froth is most evident. If not, there is an odds-on chance of a rise in US interest rates next month. In his testimony last summer Mr Greenspan said: "I am trying to think of a way to answer that question by putting more words into fewer ideas than I usually do." You have to think about that one, don't you? This time round Mr Greenspan would be well advised to forget his fondness for the Delphic and deliver an unambiguous message

GRE earmarks £1.25bn to spend on acquisitions

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

Guardian Royal Exchange may spend up to £1.25bn on acquisitions, John Robins, the chief executive, said yesterday.

Rejecting pressure from City institutions for a share buy-back or special dividend to distribute some of the insurer's cash to investors, Mr Robins made clear he had plenty of other

However, his later remarks about acquisitions depressed the shares, which had earlier risen to 295p after the publication of 1996 profits at the top end of predictions. They closed 4.5p down at 283.5p.

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the prospect of GRE buying a life insurance business which would require goodwill write-offs. Others said investors were worried about the length of Mr Robins' list of acquisitions and the risk of overpayment.

Mr Robins said that in the US, GRE had investigated four propositions in the last 12 months, but none had met its requirements for return on capital. Two possible purchases are now under examination, in the

£250m to £500m range.

Another area was life and health insurance in the UK, where a range of investments from £500m to £1bn was being

£500m, is ungeared, and could borrow £750m. It would be prestudied. "We aren't prepared to pared to spend £750m to 5p down at 283.5p. overpay," Mr Robins said. Scot-Analysts blamed the fall on tish Amicable, which is now be-£1.25bn on acquisitions, said Mr Robins, who added that it might decide to restrict its purhe had listed. GRE expects UK motor premiums to rise by 8 to 10 per cent on average in 1997, following an increase of 3 to 4 per cent in

1996, according to John Sinclair, executive director for the UK Group trading profit before restructuring costs of £39m was £281m, compared with £340m a year ago. Realised and unrealised investment gains were £409m against £472m a year earlier, giving pre-tax profits of £651m against £812m. The dividend was raised 11.1 per

ing auctioned off, is outside GRE's price range.
Finally, GRE is interested in buying direct telephone selling

operations, several of which

are on the market, to add to its

own rapidly growing business. Mr Robins said: "Any small

direct writer with fewer than 250,000 policies is not going to

survive. They can't afford the in-

formation technology invest-

ment and particularly the

advertising spend. You have to

spend a lot of money to get the

telephone ringing."

GRE could raise cash of

cent to 10p a share. Net asset value was 281p a share. GRE is the only large insurer but is confident others will come into line for their 1997 accounts.

The Securities and Futures Authority, the City regulator, has suspended James Bax, a former Barings director, from its register of directors until the Barings directors, although end of the year and ordered him to pay costs of £10,000, writes Jill Treanor.

The move against Mr Bax, request the authority to remwho was based in Singapore, is the last of the SFA's disciplinary tion of Baring Futures tion of Baring Futures SLK was an unreconciled amount of ¥7.778bn (£50m)

SFA suspends Bax until 1998 tention of senior management

some appeals are outstanding.
The SFA said Mr Bax admitted that he had failed to

to these matters. He also admitted he did not

deal with the "SLK receivable"

identified by auditors of Baring (Futures) Singapore in January 1995 and reported to Mr Bax on

1 February 1995. However, the SFA said it had taken into account the fact that Mr Bax did not appreciate the significance of the transaction.

He had no product respon sibility for the proprietary trad-ing activities of Nick Leeson, the trader who stacked up the £800m of losses that broke Barings in 1995, the SFA said, nor did he have any knowledge of futures and options.

Richards Butler, the law firm acting for Mr Bax, said he denied any liability in the SFA pro-



Forest's new Ronson owners to float continues comeback within months

Gerald Ronson continued his

progress back to the big time yesterday, unveiling a £135m development programme of leisure centres on the Continent, his second big property launch in a week.

John Willcock

Mr Ronson believes that while the UK leisure market is approaching saturation, there are big opportunities across the Channel. Heron is to develop a 250,00 sq ft leisure and retail-scheme in Madrid, two sites in Paris and two in the north of France, each approximately 200,000 sq ft in size.

The Madrid project typifies what Mr Ronson anticipates will be "a series of branded parks across Europe, working with the highest quality operators". It will inloude a large multiplex cinema, six restaurants, a bowling centre, a family entertainment complex, a bingo hall and

This new phase in Heron's life marks a significant comeback after the post-Eighties property crash. Nearly 80 banks were forced to write off around £1bn in debts.

Mr Ronson himself had a spell in Ford Open Prison beause of his involvement in the Guinness Affair. But crucially the banks decided to stand by him.

Forest deal, Mr Wray will be the Nigel Cope largest single shareholder in the club with a stake of 27.4 per The new owners of Nottingham cent. Irving Scholar will have Forest plan to float the football 16.2 per cent. Julian Markham, club "in the next few months" chairman of the Glengate propwith a valuation at the top end erty group, will have 14.6 per cent, and Nick Leslau, Mr Wray's key business partner of the £30m-£50m bracket. The comments came yesterday from Nigel Wray, the chairman and chief executive of both

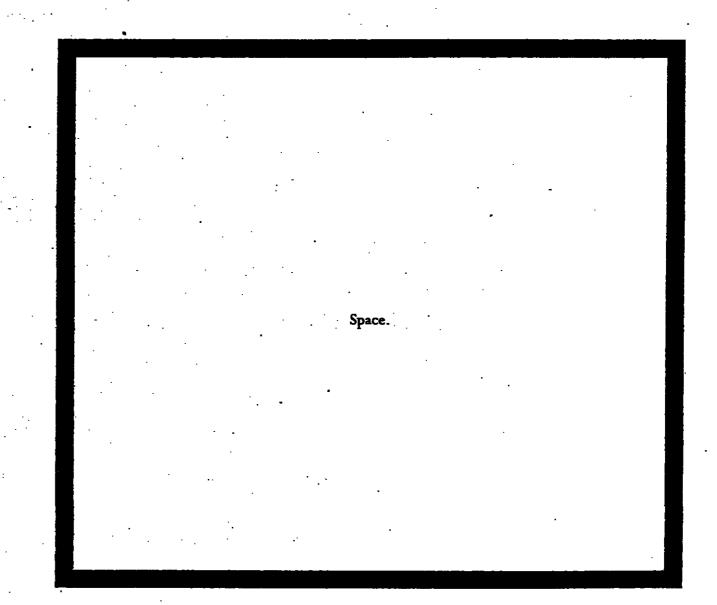
of the Trocadero and property groups, whose consortium won control of Forest in a hold 10 per cent. Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank of the Trocadero and Burford £19.3m deal on Monday night. He said accountants KPMG holds 10 per cent and the Football Fund, a football investment were already at the club prepartrust launched earlier this ing Forest's accounts and a fimonth by Singer & Friedlander, nance director was being sought. Mr Wray, who also owns the Saracens rugby club, said he Soar will have 1.8 per cent.

Under the structure of the

Mr Wray, who admits he is would only be a non-executive director of Forest. Existing more of a rugby man and a chairman Irving Korn will re-main in post while Phil Soar, the lapsed Tottenham Hotspur supporter, said he had been atformer Blenheim Exhibitions tracted to the Forest deal by the underlying value of the club. He chief executive will become chief executive. Irving Scholar, pointed to its solid support, which includes 18,000 season the former Tottenham Hotspur ticket bolders. "It is a club with chairman, will not be a director a good solid base," he said. but will act as an adviser on foot-He said he had not spoken to

Mr Wray said he had no cur- Forest manager Stuart Pearce ahead of the deal as he had not rent plans to expand Forest into thought it appropriate. rugby or other leisure areas. The victory of the consortium The priority is to stay in the ended a six-month battle for Premier League and move our

control of the club.



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Worrying flights of fancy on display at Guardian Royal

John Robins, chief executive of Guardian Royal Exchange, disappointed investors yesterday by rejecting pressure from the City for a share buy-back or special dividend. But he also gave them something more worrying to chew on when he claimed he had lots of ideas for spending the company's cash

pile on acquisitions. Indeed, he went as far as giving a list of target areas, which rattled a market that normally prefers cash in the hand to the flights of fancy by their cor-porate leaders. So the shares slipped 4.5p to 283.5p yesterday despite results at the top end of predictions.

Mr Robins is looking at life and health insurance and direct sales operations in the UK and is toying with a couple of possible acquisitions in the US. The share price reaction was the clearest demonstration of the niggling worries the City still has about GRE. especially if it buys a life business, which would require a goodwill write-off. It does not trust the company with a blank cheque for up to £1.25hn, the outlay the company could afford from its own resources. This includes £500m of cash and £750m in new debt which could be loaded onto an

ungeared balance sheet. A fresh management and a determined and largely successful attempt in the last few years to catch up with the techniques of the late 20th century insurance industry, including direct selling, has not entirely overcome the memory of the dud acquisitions of the late 1980s. GRE lost a packet in Italy and overpaid for a takeover in Ireland.

Restructuring, which cost £39m last year, has produced a streamlined UK business from a hotch-potch of companies, including the recently acquired general insurance husiness of Legal & General. Mr Robins described this as an internal merger, whose benefits would pay for the restructuring cost within two years.

Trading profits - excluding restructuring charges and the volatile investment returns, which are the other component of pre-tax profits - sank to £281m from £340m a year earlier. But this was expected, after a year of price wars in a downward-turning insurance cycle. The embedded value of the life business, published for the first time, came in near the top of forecasts at

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

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the forward yield of 4.8 per cent puts the shares on around a 15 per cent premium to the sector. Even so, and despite their sharp recent rise, they still trade at a discount to net asset value of about 8 per cent, against a premium of around 10 per cent for most insurers. This may reflect the residual suspicion surrounding the company and the absence of any obvious bidders.

For those prepared to for-get the past, the shares do not look expensive. But at this stage of the insurance cycle they are no more than a hold.

EMI seeking added Spice

The only consolation for holders of EMI shares is that they have not done as badly as those of Thorn in the wake of the long-heralded split of Thorn EMI into its separate music and rental businesses last August. That divorce has proved a pretty poor invest-ment of lavish advisers' fees. with EMI having lost over a quarter of its value against the market since then and Thorn plunging by a massive 57 per cent against the FTSE all-share index.

On the face of it, yesterday's figures from EMI, showing profits slashed from £373m to £326m in the nine months to December, justified the market's jaundiced reaction. Last year was not a good one to be in the records business.

pound's strength shaved £16m from an operating profit that sank from £332m to £306m and the company warned the full-year effect could be nearer £25m. Meanwhile, after an exceptional period for new record releases in the third quarter of 1995, this year the bonanza has been deferred to the final quarter. But EMI is not short seriously rival the Beatles, with 7 million album sales to outdone, the Beatles three-volume anthology has sold 13 million double albums. The full year will include releases from

| Five-Year record | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 |
|--|------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Premiums written | 3,004 | 3.300 | 3,703 | 3,776 | 3,732 |
| Pre-lax profits (£m)* | 150 | 751 | (75) | 812 | 651 |
| Earnings per strare (pence) | 13.Ż | 74.5 | (14) | 77 | 48.7 |
| Dividends per share (pence) Includes investment gains | 7 | 7.6 | 8.25 | 9 | 10 |
| 1996 Pre tax profit (2 | m) | Shar | e price | (Pence) | |
| Investment Europ | ntinental se genera | 300 - 260 - | A LONG | 30 T | L |
| 5369— | 529 1 | 220 | 1 | | |
| | | 100 - | | T | |

Guardian Royal Exchange : At a glance

Market value: £2.68bn, share price 283.5p

Assuming a 10 per cent rise Blur and Mansun, who have alin this year's dividend to 11p, ready come straight in at numher one in the UK.

> The third-quarter problems were well telegraphed to the market and are containable. Analysis reckon the currency hit next year will be below £20m, for instance. More serious is the continuing dire state of US music retailing. which has suffered from overexpansion and cut-throat competition. EMI has provided over \$8m for the move into Chapter 11 of Camelot, one of the chains, and if Musicland, the US equivalent of Our

In the long run, the market for recorded music may resume the 7 per cent or more growth typical of a few years ago, while penetration of CDs in western markets is still below 50 per cent. But underlying profits of £380m for the full year would put the shares, up 4.5p at £11.975, on a forward multiple of 23. High enough.

Price, follows suit, the hit

could be upwards of £10m.

Wimpey builds on swap

Exchanging its minerals and construction business for Tarmac's McLean Homes 12 months ago has proved a good swap for George Wimpey. Operating profits rose by 55 per cent to £51.7m in 1996. making it the best year for the housebuilder since 1990. Pretax profits doubled to £31.5m and McLean is already making 14 per cent on capital employed, replacing the 5 per cent achieved on the business offloaded. Earnings per share of 5.8p cover the unchanged dividend of 5.5p, the first time for two years, while gearing only

rose from 33 to 39 per cent, and

is on the way down again. Despite the good news, 1996 was only an average year. Selling prices rose as a result of an improvement in product mix. UK house completions actually of talent, led by the ubiquitous fell 11 per cent. Chairman Spice Girls, who are ready to and chief executive Joe Dwyer admits Wimpey's own product mix has been looking rather their name so far and singles tired. The drop in governhits in 32 countries. Not to be ment funding cut social housing completions by a third. McLean Homes, which concentrates on four-bedroom detached homes, dipped only 3 per cent in spite of Wimpey stopping the McLean custom of cutting prices to push through completions just before the year-end. Meanwhile, Morrison Homes in the US remains in the red and profits on sales of surplus assets were ab-

sorbed by restructuring costs. The current upturn in the housing market is strongest inside the M25 where Wimpey is weakest. Overall, it is not expecting to raise the number of completions this year, al-though Mr Dwyer thinks prices

might rise by 5 per cent.
Profit estimates for this year range from £40m to £60m. Much will depend on progress in selling off a further £88m worth of surplus assets, how well the updated styles sell, and how long the housing recovery lasts. The shares, down 1.5p at 140p, sell on around 15 times

Question the world is dyeing to ask Branson

Forget the Spice Girls, the hottest topic of conversation at the Brit Awards on Monday night was - does Richard Branson dye his hair? The grey strands seem to be disappearing from the Virgin boss's mane of sandy hair with the speed of one of his hotair balloon descents.

Virgin's press office was completely stumped by the question yesterday. "I don't really know what to say," said a

So - does he or doesn't he?

Guardian Direct has invited a lucky colleague of mine to a health farm for the "relaxation treatment of your choice".

This intriguing inducement is being offered as part of Guardian's launch of a new private medical insurance product, to be sold over the phone, on

The "relaxations" will take place at the Espree Club, Royal Mint Court next to the Tower of London. The fortunate journos will spend a day using the gym, sauna, jacuzzi and "entry to fitness classes".

"We can also arrange for you to have a relaxation treatment of your choice after the briefing." Lordy. I trust my colleague will keep his Yfronts firmly on.

Everyone knows you're not supposed to beat your client at golf. Alex Snow, part of the broking team at BZW which deals with Nigel Wray's Trocadero, took no notice of this over the weekend, however, when he played

rugby for Harlequins.

Quins handed out a thrashing to Saracens, the Enfield-based rugby club which was bought last year by none other than Mr Wray.

Unabashed, Mr Snow popped up at yesterday's Trocadero results meeting. Perhaps Mr Wray should sign him up. Then the tycoon could get broking advice and sporting glory in one

No doubt those high-powered corpo-rate financiers at Hambro Magan feared they would be moved from

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Hair today: Is Richard Branson more colourful than ever?

their smart town house in Queen Anne's Gate into NatWest Market's Lubyanka-like City head office in

Bishopsgate after the recent takeover. However, NatWest Market's chief executive, Martin Owen, has found them a "miniature Kew Gardens" to work in, slap bang in the heart of the

City.

Mr Owen decided that the new place should take him no longer than

five minutes to walk to from his own office in Bishopsgate, and he came up with bijoux Crosby Court. Now he can drop in on George Magan and the chaps without breaking sweat.

Yesterday niche merchant bank Guinness Mahon celebrated both the past and the future. A raft of senior bank directors attended the opening of the Denis Mahon Collection of Italian

Baroque paintings at the National

Gallery.
Sir Denis, a scion of the hanking family which originally bailed from Cork, formed his collection of 17th and 18th century paintings earlier in the century when the art establishment turned its nose up at the style. A good example of counter-cyclical in-

vestment, perhaps.
Also yesterday, Guinness Mahon formally launched its hid for an Arts Council of England film production franchise. The bank is part of Partners in Film, a consortium of four film finance and distribution companies. Partners in Film has formed a joint venture with Elton John's Rocket Pictures, EMI Music Publishing, HTV and Yorkshire Tyne-Tees TV, to bid for the franchise.

It certainly represents a step up from Guinness Mahon's financing of Sooty and Sweep.

Stand by for the UK's first offer of shares over Internet. Darry! Mattocks, 32, founded the Internet Bookshop five years ago and needs f.Im to expand the company, which as its name suggests flogs books over the Net. The placing and public offering via brokers Shaw & Co will take the company's market cap to £3.3m.

Mr Mattocks is refreshing proof

that the US doesn't have a monopoly on computer nerds made good. He designed his first computer game at the age of 15 and then moved on to design systems for SG Warburg and National Westminster Bank.

Not that it's all spotty youths in baseball caps. Chairman Simon Pre-ston has over 35 years' management experience and has already built and sold one private computer company.

The Internet Bookshop claims to be the UK's "clear market leader" in selling books via the Net, with 894,000 titles on offer. The holding company for the float is called bookshop.co.uk plc. As a sweetener, investors get a 10 per cent discount on books they buy through the company.

John Willcock

Shire buys US drugs delivery firm for £105m

Magnus Grimond

Shire Pharmaceuticals, the small group floated a year ago, is to increase its size by more than two-thirds following a deal to a controlled release form of car-pay up to \$170m (£105m) for barnazepine, a drug used in the Pharmavene, a US drugs delivery company based in Maryland. which is licensed to Athena, part

in sustained release drug delivery products, announced that its £73m stock market flotation had been heavily oversubscribed" at 250p a share. To part finance the Phar-

mayene deal and other acquisitions being contemplated, Shire is raising £11.5m by way of a onefor-ten placing and offer at 214p a share. The group is also un-derstood to be in negotiations for the purchase of a unnamed company in Europe and a product range in the UK for total of £14m.

Despite the flood of new equity, the share price dropped just 3.5p to 234p yesterday as analysts welcomed the deal and news of lower than expected losses of £105,000 in the latest six months. Dr Rolf Stahel, Shire's chief executive, said it had effectively achieved break-even in six months, rather than the 12

months forecast by the market. Pharmavene gives Shire another 11 potential new products, taking the pipeline to 30. The US group has created a highthroughput method of screenformulations penetrate human cells in the laboratory. It is approspects.

plying the results in 11 projects to develop technologies for the delivery and release of drugs more effectively into the body.

The lead product is Carbatrol a controlled release form of car-The news came as Core of the Irish drugs delivery group Group, a company specialising Elan, could be launched later this year. If successful, it would compete directly with Novartis Tegretol drug, which had sales of \$340m in 1994.

Another product under development is a more efficient version of Glaxo Wellcome's Zovirax anti-herpes drug. But the bigger potential could come from an oral form of Calcitonin, used for the treatment of brittle bones, which could attack a world market currently put at

Separately, Oxford Molecular, a biotechnology group. announced that it was investing £500,000 in Cambridge Combinatorial, a new drug research company run by Allan Marchington, the brother of Oxford's chief executive Tony Marchington.

Oxford will take a 20 per cent stake in Cambridge. The new company plans to use combinatorial chemistry to supply potential drug prospects to other drug and biotech groups. It claims it will have an edge on similar companies by providing ing how well particular drug a narrower range of compounds for screening as new drug

Sema set for a year of bedding

down

Nigel Cope

Sema Group, the Anglo-French computer services group, said yesterday that 1997 would be a year of consolidation after three acquisitions last year. Sema said that of the new purchases British Rail Business Systems was performing well while Telis, the fixed telephony group should break even in 1997 and move into profit in 1998. Syntax, the former facilities management arm of Olivetti, is being integrated and made a significant contribution to the 1996 results.

Announcing a 35 per cent in 1996 profits to £50m Pierre Boneili, Sema's chief executive, said that the company would spend the current year bedding down its new deals but added: "Obviously, if there is a good opportunity passing by we will take it."

He added that following the success of the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, where Sema was the official information systems supplier, the group is ex-pecting a similar involvement in the Sydney games in 2000. However, he acknowledged that the contract for the World Cup football tournament in France next year had gone to Electronic Data systems of the US.

The company is concentrating on the fast growing Anglo-French information telecoms and business systems markets this year. Though the company is expanding into Germany and the US, Sema plans to focus

mainly on organic growth.

Spending on technology has been growing rapidly in telecoms and Sema has signed an agreement with Global One, the alliance of Deutsche Telecom and France Telecom.

Sema, which is quoted in London and Paris, saw profits rise 35 per cent to £50m in the year to 31 December. Sales increased by a similar amount to £927m. Organic growth rose 20 per cent and the order book grew by 66 per cent to £1.25bn. Last year's £99m rights issue the company's first - has left Sema with net cash of £18m. Sema's telecoms business

grew by 44 per cent and its business systems division, which includes high-margin outsourcing contracts as well as systems integration operations, saw 46 per cent growth. Sema is hoping for expanding

computer systems for European Monetary Union and the 'millennium problem" of adapting computers to the year 2000. Sema's shares, which have surged from 532p to 1275p over the past year, closed 11.5p down on the day at 1238.5p.

IN BRIEF

• Energis, the telecommunications business owned by National Grid, yesterday slashed its international call prices to business customers by up to a third, in a move that could ignite a price war with British Telecom. Energis introduced a new tariff for business customers who spend about £70 or more per month on calls. Calls to France, Germany and the USA will fall to 10p a minute. Mike Grabiner, Energis chief executive, claimed this made Energis the cheapest mainstream telephones business in the world. He said he intended to raise the group's share of the UK's £1.5bn a year international call market from under 1 per cent to 5 per cent. Energis also insisted it could make a profit on the new tariff.

 Birmingham Midshires Building Society reported an increase in taxable profits from £63.9m to £70.7m for 1996. Mike Jackson, chief executive, said the society "does not feel itself under any pressure to link with another organisation simply because other societies have decided to do so". He said the society "continues to research all the options so as to ensure that it is fulfilling its duty to act in the best long-term interests of the society". He said there were plans to extend the product range by launching a credit card, motor and travel insurance products. Separately, the neighbouring Coventry Building Society announced a drop in pretax profits from £41.7m to £24.15m due to the "planned narrowing" of the interest margin.

 Volkswagen, the German car company, more than doubled net earnings in 1996 to DM687m (£251m), from DM336m in the previous year. Turnover climbed by 11 per cent to DM100bn. Sales of cars rose by 10.7 per cent to 3.99 million.

· Matthew Clark, the troubled cider producer, has appointed Robert MacNevin as group marketing director with effect from 1 May. Mr MacNevin joins from Guinness Brewing Worldwide, where he is currently marketing and business development director for Europe after four years working as marketing director of Guin-

 Penny Hughes has joined the board of Mirror Group, joint owner of The Independent, as a non-executive director. She was president of Coca-Cola Great Britain & Ireland until January 1995. She also holds other non-executive directorships at Next, Berisford and Body shop.

 French consumer prices rose 0.3 per cent in January after a 0.2 per cent rise in December. The year-on-year inflation rate was 1.8 per cent in January compared with 1.7 per cent the month

 Neepsend, the engineering group, warned that pre-tax profits would fall short of market expectations and be lower than the previous year's result of £1.9m. The company blamed the shortfall on a downturn on Ferro Alloys, and delays in the supply of items of investment at Cintride. Neepsend's shares dived from

 Company cars continue to be a popular benefit, with many companies increasing the value of vehicles allocated and some decreasing the replacement intervals after a period of tightening up on cost in the wake of the recession, according to the latest company car policy survey by remuneration advisers Monks Partnership. Report editor David Atkins added that tax changes had done little to reduce the attraction of cars, with few drivers tempted to accept a cash allowance instead.

 Capita, the outsourcing and support services group, boosted profits in 1996 by 31 per cent to £12.3m. Turnover climbed from £87m to £112m. The total dividend is being raised by 23 per cent to 4.8p, and is accompanied by a two-for-one bonus issue of shares.

Due to an inadvertent error in yesterday's edition the pre-tax profit 1996 for Leeds & Holbeck Building Society was incorrectly stated. and should have read £18.27m.

Company Results

| | 7 | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| | 2 revorruT | Pre-tax £ | EPS | Dividend |
| Admiral (F) | 90.8m (85.5m) | 11.2m (9.83m) | 11.6p (10.7p) | 2 24p (1 88p) |
| Alemase Group (i) | 84.9m (64.9m) | 6.53m (6.75m) | 10.75p (12p) | 2450 (2.450) |
| Charterhouse Contine (1) | 2.21m (1.52m) | \$.37m (0.30m) | 0.23p (0.14p) | UB (-) Coop (coop) |
| Donatelen Energy (F) | 0.45m (0.59m) | -0.51m (-3.31m) | -1.10 (-7.2m) | ты (вар) |
| EME Group (N°) | 2.56bn (2.69bn) | 326m (373m) | 46.50 (53.3p) | |
| Capita Group (F) | 112m (87.6m) | 12.29m (9.42m) | 14.3p (11.8p) | - (-) 4.8p (3.8p) |
| Jerseya law Props (F) | - (-) | 1.3m (1.07m) | 5.84p (5.49p) | 5.5p (-) |
| Mersey Docks & Harbour | (F)140m (131m) | 29.7m (31.7m) | 22.77p (24.48p) | |
| M-H Groeb (1) | 18.5cn (16.6m) | 2.35m (2.17m) | 2.8p (2.6p) | 12 7Sp (11.5p |
| Halffest (F) | - (+) | 1.12bn (1 75bn) | 23p (67.6p) | 1.2p (1.2p) |
| Polyment Phermis (†) | 0.12m (-) | -1.07m (-) | -7p (-) | 29g (-) |
| Mcarde Group (i) | 52.1m (46.0m) | -13.7m (2.37m) | -320 (3.40) | - (-) |
| Sculikh TV (F) | 127m (98,9m) | 61 2m (20 2m) | 55.9p (27.7p) | 2a (2p) |
| Sents Gland (L) | 927m (678m) | 50.0m (36.9m) | | 16.7p (-) |
| Shire Pharmaceetical (1) | 9.88m (12.1m) | -0.11m (4 63m) | -0.2p (14.6p) | вр (Бр) |
| William Shedair (1) | 22.0m (18.5m) | 2 24m (1.78m) | 6.9p (5.4p) | (-) |
| Tracadero (F) | 10 7m (8,94m) | 1,23m (1.83m) | 0.15p (0.58p) | 2.1p (1.9p) |
| George Wimpey (F) | 1.26bn (1.57bn) | 31.5m (15 6m) | 5.84p (7.6p) | · (·) |
| (F) - Final (I) - Interim | (N) - Mine months | | Bas for 17 mm pe | PD (Sp) |

Docks dispute cost Mersey £800,000

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

The long-running dispute between 329 dismissed dockers and Mersey Docks and Harbour Company cost the group ESIMMON last year, it was revealed yesterday.

However, Trevor Furlong, Mersey's chief executive, said discussions were continuing which could lead to a settlement. some 18 months after the industrial action began. The Transport and General Workers Union, which is not officially supporting the dispute, is trying to broker a deal where the dockers would set up a company

to supply services to the Port. Mr Furlong said he was optimistic about talks scheduled for next week. "The germs are there, but we've got to develop it. We still come back to the havic question, which is why the dockers won't hold a secret ballot. We believe a majority would vote to end the action.

dockers, who were dismissed for refusing to cross a picket line, rejected an offer to reinstate 40 jobs, with pay-offs of £25,000 for the rest. The new offer adds another £3,000 to the settlement.

Jimmy Nolan, chairman of the Merseyside Port Shop Stew ards, welcomed Mr Furlong's comments, but said: "We see no logic in having another postal ballot. We wish to be reinstated and we've said that all along. We've had a show of hands on this." But Mr Nolan said the company had to end its relationship with a local employment agency that had recruited replacement staff and must negotiate work exclusively

with the dockers' company. Mersey Docks yesterday announced a 16.5 per cent rise in operating profits for last year to £43.8m. However, headline pretax profits fell from £31.7m to £29.7m after the £9m cost of closing the loss-making Eurolink Ferries operation. The group also said it intended to raise investment this year to £48m, after In a postal ballot last July the spending £20m in 1996.

Sell-offs boost profits at Scottish Television

Clifford German

Exceptional gains of £33.2m from disposals helped Scottish Television achieve record profits of £61.2m last year. The acquisition of Caledonian Publishing has also provided the group with a broader operating base and made a significant contribution to profits.

The group plans to change its name later this year to reflect the move towards a multimedia company, executive chairman Gus Macdonald said vesterday. The recent sale of the 20 per

cent stake in HTV acquired from Flextech in 1995 to United News & Media was part of a programme of selling off lowyielding investments to help finance the £120m paid for Caledonian, The disposal realised £73.7m and created an exceptional gain of £37.3m. United also bought Scottish TV's 5 per cent stake in ITN, which yielded a further excep-

tional profit of £3.9m.

Excluding exceptionals, prof-sales contributed record operit before tax was still up 40 per cent to £28m and operating profits rose 37 per cent to £25.6m.

Turnover from continuing operations grew by 16 per cent to £114.7m. Operating profit from continuing operations increased by 26 per cent to £23.9m, earnings per share rose by 13 per cent to 31p and a final dividend of 13.2p brings the full year figure to 18.7p, an increase of 15 per cent. .

Broadcasting turnover rose by 8 per cent and operating profits rose by 24 per cent to £20.6m. Advertising revenues also improved 8 per cent to £81.4m, increasing the company's share of TTV net advertising revenue from 4.77 per cent to 4.91 per

cent. In the second half of the year it was back above 5 per cent. Programme sales leapt by 47

per cent to £29.3m, helped by

delayed deliveries from the pre-

vious year and several new com-

missions including the drama

ating profits of £3.3m. Caledonian Publishing, publishers of the Glasgow-based

Herald and Evening Times contributed £12.6m to turnover and £1.7m to operating profits in the final 12 weeks of the year. The integration of Caledonian is proceeding smoothly, cost reduction targets are being achieved and the opportunities for selling advertising across television and newspapers show great potential, according to Mr Macdonald.

Audience figures for Sky Scottish, the new satellite channel launched with BSkyB in November have been initially small but the financial impact on the group is minimal to date.

workloads as companies prepare The outlook for 1997 is good in spite of the uncertainties created by the impending general election. Disposals leave Scottish Television with £14m of net cash and make it well placed to fund future expansion. The series McCallum. Programme shares rose 7.5p to 637.5p.

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MARY 1997 - THE INDEPENDE

FISE 100 4344.7 + 13.6 FISE 250 4665.0 + 23.1FTSE 350 2149.2 + 7.6 SEAQ VOLUME 821.7m shares, 50,690 bargains

> Gilts Index 96.40 + 0.20Share spotlight

Data Bank

Hello Dolly as biotechs dance back into the spotlight Biotech is back. After a share price meltdown in the second half of last year the sector has returned to favour with in-

vestors, helped by anticipa-tion of good news flow and an upturn in the US biotech market_ According to Dr Erling Ref-sum at Japanese broker Yamaichi, many large financial institutions now take the view

that they must have some ex-posure on fundamental grounds to the UK biotech sector - the second-largest of its kind in the world after the US. In a 69-page review just sent out to clients, he estimates that the underlying intellectual assets in the sector are growing at an average of between 30-50 per cent a year while the number of quoted companies is now large enough for a portfolio approach to reduce

beat announcements, the most high-profile of which came this week from PPL Therapeutics, responsible for technology which created Dolly the lamb, the world's first cloned mammal. The shares soared another 67.5p to 455p, for a

two-day gain of 36 per cent. This follows news last week that Proteus had successfully developed a speedier test for detecting BSE with the blessing of the Irish government. Shares in Proteus, 7p higher yesterday at 87.5p, have nearly tripled since the breakthrough was reported.

Cantab Pharmaceuticals benefited from the institutional buying, rising 2.5p to 867.5p as the Prudential emerged as the owner of 3.81 per cent of the shares. In its report Yamaichi notes Cantab's "stunning" gemital warts trial results while the emergence of drugs giants SmithKline



MARKET REPORT

PATRICK TOOHER

Blue chips followed Wall Street lower with the FTSE-

100 index closing at 4,344.7, up

13.6, but 13 points below the

776.5p, as analysts rushed to

trim their forecasts after a dis-

appointing set of final results.

The main concerns were rising costs and a lack of news about

a share buy-back. Some switch-ing out of NatWest was also seen, with Barclays the main beneficiary, up 26p at 1,122p. Further consideration of

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson's

positive review of retailers pushed Marks & Spencer and

Next to the top of the list of

Also touching new highs yesterday was BTG, up 16.5p to 591.5p, fuelled-in part by takeover hopes. The UK government's golden share in the world's leading technology transfer company expires next

AIM-listed PolyMASC Pharmaceuticals advanced 10p to 133.5 after posting a maiden loss of £1.1m on sales of £117,000.

Recent speculative buying has also been seen in blood products group Haemocell, whose shares have come off their all-time 3p low. There is talk the stock, unchanged at 5.5p, could hit 10p soon.

best-performing blue chips. M&S advanced 14.5p to 503p, closely followed by Next, 16p better at 609.5p.

Among the laggards sell advice from UBS, BZW and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson was enough to wipe out all of Monday's gains in Thora, down 13.5p at 189.5p. EMI, its former stablemate, had a volatile session, dipping 36p in an immediate knee-jerk reday's best showing.
The main casualty was
NatWest Bank, down 36p to sponse to weak nine-month re-sults. But the shares recovered

> Also in the doghouse was Dalgety, off 6p at 332.5p as HSBC lames Capel lowered its recommendation to hold, but rival food producer Hillsdown Holdings fared better, adding a penny to 1860 ahead of next week's results as Nat West high-lighted expectations for double-digit earnings growth and

to close a net 4.5p higher at

1,197.5p as the negative impact

of currency factors was dis-

a 7 per cent yield. Pace Micro hit a new low of 157p, down 3p. Analysts hope that a rare speech by BSkyB supremo Sam Chisholm at a cable conference on Thursday may also provide long-awaited news that Pace has won the contract to

market report/shares

A profits warning from zips maker SEP sent the shares crashing 10.25p to 26p for the day's biggest single fall. Shares in Motion Media,

the Ofex-listed video phone maker, paused for breath, slip-ping 10p to 270p. The shares have been stellar performers in recent weeks on hopes of a big video phone deal with BT that

would transform the company.

MM is also exhibiting its video phone, launched last November, at the Cebit trade fair in Hannover next month when an agreement with The shares rose 15p to Deutsche Relekom may also be 221.5p, their best level for

☐ The latest top-of-the-bull-

market signal comes from ShareLink, which says the level of inquiries for the forthcoming Birmingham City flotation has been "overwhelming". Queues formed yesterday outside the execution-only broker's Birming-<u>ham headquarters as fans</u> rushed to sign up for beat this morning's 10 o'clock deadline for applications. This despite the Blues' miserpitch and reports that club captain Steve Bruce is poised to take over from Trevor dealings in the shares begin on AIM on 7 March.

☐ William Sinclair, the garden products group, flowered as interim pre-tax profits came in at £2.24m (£1.76m).

individual company risk. Certainly sentiment has been helped by a clutch of up-Beecham and Pfizer as part-

"I don't have to get dressed to

dressed to go to my bank."

| Column |

Share Price Data Prices are in starting except where stated. The yield is lest year's dividend, grossed up by [20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by fast year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional starts. Other details: r Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex at u Unlated Securities Mariet s Suspended pp Pertly Paid pm Nt Paid Shares. # Allet Stock

Source: FT Information The independent index

Anyone with a tone-diel telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333. For assistance, call our helpine 0171 873 4378 (900em - 500pm). Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

950000 BTR 970000 Bank of Scotland 980000 Lloyda 1970000 Lucaskiniy 950000 Buston 1970000 Marks & Spenoer 950000 GFE FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

Couch's difficult fight for respect

Britain's only woman world boxing champion defends her title on Sunday in New Orleans. Nick Halling met her

on the gloves in preparation for a sparring session. He outweighs his opponent by a good 40 pounds and has an un-deniable edge in strength and power, but knows that he is to receive a daunting test not only of his ability as a boxer, but of his very manhood. He is about to enter the ring with Jane Couch, Britain's only female world boxing champion.

Three rough, hostile, uncom-'I was brought promising rounds later it is up to look after all smiles, the two embracing myself and if in mutual respect and, from someone gave the male perspective, a sense of relief. In you any lip preparation for the defence of you'd fill 'em in'

International getting into Boxing Federation welterweight fights at school, and whose title in New Orleans on Sunday, nose for trouble meant that Couch has dispatched a succession of cocksure training partners whose aura of masculine superiority has been rudely shatby the champion's relentless aggression.

her Women's

"Some people laugh at women's boxing, but they'd better not laugh at me," the 28year-old from Fleetwood said, Tve sparred with lads who've had 60 or more fights, and they can't even hurt me. I'd give the

The young fighter appears average six-round male pro-antious as his trainer laces fessional a run for his money. and there aren't many women who can say that."

Couch represents the legiti-mate face of female pugilism, a woman whose dedication to her craft has meant leaving her Lancashire home for life on a farm in Bristol owned by her trainer, Tex Woodward. Here she is subjected to a spartan regime of con-ditioning which has transformed her from a crude brawler into a polished boxer.

The discipline does my head plained. "I'm not used to being in bed by 10.30 every night, and doing what I'm told." It is a far cry from the girl who always

> mayhem was never far away. "I'm not a violent person, but I was brought up to look after myself, and if someone gave you any lip, you'd fill 'em in." One day she saw a television documentary on women boxers, and realised that here was a way of combining business with plea-

seemed to be

"I didn't know women could box and to be honest, I thought that if you can fight - which I



could - you could just go ahead and do it. I didn't realise you had to train hard and work at it." Couch made her debut in Wigan two years ago, taking particular delight in knocking out a London policewoman inside two rounds. Three further vic-tories followed before she was invited to challenge for the world title in Denmark against the Frenchwoman Sandra

It was grim stuff, Couch, right eye swollen and blackened, ultimately breaking Giger's nose and spirit over 10 gruelling rounds which revealed both ber strengths and weaknesses. "Giger was better, stronger and more experienced but couldn't cope with Jane's relentless aggression."
Woodward said. "Jane had

Giger last May.

is highly intelligent, and a quick learner. I've tried to show her that there is more to boxing than just whacking somebody, and she's responded.

All of which will be essential

if she is to prevail in New Orleans against the vastly experienced Andrea DeShong. Female boxing is acknowledged think that people would be and accepted in the United proud of having a world cham-States: the rugged Christy Martin is a regular on Don King promotions, and is probably the best-known woman boxer in the world (the Couch camp feigns indifference to the knowledge that DeShong is the only person to have defeated the formidable New Yorker).

As a consequence, American women have greater opportunities to pursue their careers energy, heart and personality, than their counterparts in the but couldn't box. However, she United Kingdom, where preju-

ing minimum the control of the contr dices run deep and the typical reaction to women fighting is one of disdain. "The British have a bad attitude to women in sport generally, not just in box-ing," Couch said. "I meet people who criticise female boxing taniweight champion. "Winning won't change my life just yet," she said; "but if it helps the powers all the time, yet they've never seen it, and aren't aware of the in the UK to include women in work that goes into it. You'd

quick to knock." Couch believes that greater exposure will help women's boxing achieve a greater degree of respectability in this country. Female fights on male shows are commonplace in the US success against DeShong could lead to the Fleetwood within being savited on the a major

pion, but instead, they're very

British promotion.
That is also the ambition of ansmall screen. Even in the States, women are now finding their earning toughest fight of all. other British fighter who will be

Photograph: Peter Jay

potential being called into question. Martin, the game's most bankable name, was absent from King's last promotion, officially with an injury. However, there have been dark murmurings that she was dropped after demanding a purse of \$100,000.

Couch remains undaunted, confident in her ability to make both in the ring and as a personality. "I've got to keep the title, because no one will want to know me if I lose," she said.

"But when I first saw that documentary, I promised myself that I'd become a world champion, and be rich and famous. I've got the title and a bit of fame, all I need now is the money.

able means of making a living.
Instead, the supplements meagreening earnings with television
appearances, her exuberant
personality a natural fit for the In a business infamous for the exploitation of its participants, that might turn out to be the

Mullally's finest catch of the tour

Cricket

Alan Mullally had a day to remember in New Zealand yesterday, although it had nothing to do with batting or bowling. Fishing off the coast at Napier, where England were preparing to play New Zealand in today's third one day international, the Leicestershire fast howler caught a 60lb Mako shark after a

45-minute struggle, The shark was taken back to the England hotel in Napier, destined for the team barbecue. together with about 40 crayfish

also taken during the trip. On dry land in South Africa, Australia completed their build-up to the first Test with a fifth consecutive victory yesterday. The tourists cruised to a 79-run victory against a Transvaal Invitation XI in Soweto, scoring 261 for 7 in their 45 overs and dismissing the local side for 182

The game was over as a contest by the 10th over of Transvaal's reply when Nic Pothas was caught off Andrew Bichel without scoring, reducing his side to 29 for 5.

There were only two stands of substance for the home side first between the Transvaal allrounder, Andrew Hall, and a Johannesburg schoolboy. Solly Ndima. They put on 53 for the sixth wicket, Ndima making 35 from 41 balls with six boundaries before having his middle stump removed by Greg Blewett. The Transvaal captain, Clive

Eksteen, made 42 from 64 balls and added 54 for the ninth wicket with Wayne Kidwell, who finished 30 not out.

Earlier, Justin Langer (63) and Matthew Elliott (69) had laid the foundation for Australia's challenging total by putting on 117 for the second wicket and the tempo was lifted when Michael Bevan (49) and Matthew Hayden (47) smashed 98 for the fourth wicket in 11 overs.

Australia have now won all five games before the first of three Tests against South Africa, which starts in Johannesburg on Friday.



A THE WOOLD CO MR JOE GOODING

MR STEVEN HART

MR DAVID ASHTON

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 9 FEBRUARY POINTS 698 MR WILLIAM BARR KRIJEGER F.C. MR GARFIELD MCCULLEN GARRIELD BOYS SECOND 693 MR PETER FRANKENTAL **ARLENSIU** CRUISING ALEXANDRA MR SIMON DRAPER PLATE F.C. MR. SECON LOS 681 MR BILL COOPER YEP MOP 2000 KNIGHT'S NANA HEAD MR NICK KNIGHT 678 MR NICK YAP NR A MORGAN DR STEPHEN MATTHEWS 674 MR DARREN NICHOLAS LAST GASP GULLIT 672 CINCINATI STORM 672 HRADAM HOGE AT MR SEAN BROSNAN 670 MIR IAIN GROUT LEE BURNS CHEST MR PAUL MATTER MR ANDREW GODDEN F.C. ALZEY MR P HEMMING MAY LIFTLE-UNS MR D'R KENNEDY MR R RENNICK WILD ROVERS MR ANDY SWANNEY MR JOHN WANTEN MR GARETH HARDY YOUNG BOYS BARNSLEY MR KNATHAN NCC MR O J JOHNSON MR P CURRAN MR C NOBEL

TEAM SQUIDLIPS

KEE'S COWBOYS

THE LODGERS

ECORMIL

SCORING SYSTEM

their events, then it could be the

But big money is likely to chuse them for some time.

Couch will earn just \$2,000 (£1,265) for defending her ti-

tle, admitting that a full-time job wouldprovide a more reli-

start of something big."

4 points for a goal = 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet = 3 points for a successful assist = 1 point when a player is selected and plays

I point for a winning goal = 3 points for a manager win, I point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card:

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 23 FEBRUARY, WEEK 28 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 FEBRUARY - 23 FEBRUARY

B - Beibre transfer period A - After transfer period

Mullally's finest catch of the tour

The dating was over 253 cm continue of the requesting his side to 7-1 () i

Irish fields in recent years. A well-dressed pairing of English owner and trainer has bought a horse for a six-figure sum from relatively scruffy local chaps in turned-down Wellingtons. The people on one side of this bargain are, by great taproom wit, reputed to be daft and easy to fool. A dispassionate observer of these outdoor transactions might find it a little more diffi-

cult to find the dupe.
Nicholas Cooper can certainly be considered no dolt as he has built up a serious fortune in business, but he had to lay out a goodly slice of his profits last month on an Irish novice hurdler called I'm Supposin, who had run just once over timbeт.

The portents though are good that this money will not be chasing the poorly-speculated rest as it cascades down the grids. On his second outing, I'm Supposin waltzed away from Finnegan's Hollow at Naas. and that runner-up then all but beat the highly-rated Istabraq at Leopardstown.

I'm Supposin may now have posted just two runs over hurdles in his life, but his form and promise mean this useful former-Flat performer is a 7-1 chance with Coral for the Champion Hurdle itself.

I'm Supposin will not need a return portion on his ticket to Prestbury Park. Win, lose or draw he will be transferred from his current digs with Kevin Prendergast in Kildare to Cooper's favoured trainer in Britain, the Sussex-based Richard Rowe. It will be an unusual journey to one of Britain's brightest freshman talents from one of Ireland's most venerated racing families.

Kevin Prendergast, who will be 65 this year, is the son of the legendary P J Prendergast, and

2.30 DURANO (nap

3.30 Peak A Boo

Richard Edmondson on Ireland's chief challenger for the Champion Hurdle

brother to Paddy, a fellow trainer. A former leading amateur rider, he lists his interests as farming and breeding, which is quite understandable when you learn that he has been on the lookout for seven brothers. Andrea, Penelope, Louise, Norma, Anne, Amanda and Natasha are the seven brides he has been seeking to bankroll.

Prendergast sure

about Supposin

Down the years Prendergast has won plenty of his domestic Classics and, in 1977, he sent Nebbiolo over to Newmarket to win the 2,000 Guineas. Most recently he supervised Oscar. Schindler's dramatic campaign last year, when the huge chest-nut finally fulfilled the high expectations that have always. been held for him.

The first Oscar nomination this season is Epsom's Coro-nation Cup and he will compete with the very best throughout the year. "You don't expect to see Eric Cantona playing in the Third Division so we'll be there in all the big races," the train-

er said yesterday.
I'm Supposin actually met his
more celebrated stablemate in the Irish St Leger in September and was far from humiliated. "If you take Oscar Schindler out of the Leger he was beaten only four lengths by Key Change, who had won a Yorkshire Oaks, a Group One," Prendergast said. "You can't get any better than that in terms of a Champion Hurdle horse.

"Some of the horses he'll be running against will be just old bumper horses and I think the last time that anything ran in a Champion Hurdle with the sort of Flat rating [115] he's got it was Alderbrook. This is not iust an ordinary horse you

4.00 Artic Wings (nb)

4.30 Bold Boss

GOING: Soft.

Lathrand evel dispute: Sum in of 200yds slightly unbill.

Counce is 192 of theory on B1224 near junction of ABS and A1. ADMISSION: Carb S12 (accompanies) sander 16 free; Tamescalls 28; Counce S2 (OAPs £1) (cars, including up

ELINIANT PERST TIME: None.
WINDOWS SEEL LAST SEVEN DATS: None.
WINDOWS ELINIANT EXIST NO PAIN NO Gain (4.00) has been sent 256 miles by J Gifford from Project Existrems; Chireswan (5.00) has been sent 164 miles by M Tomprins from Newspirich Spitolik.

2.00 HOGARTH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m

enalty Value £2,670

SA CANOTIO BENCANTE (20) (D) (Lady Barnford) P Webber 5 11 9

"S HORESHORN (18) (D) (D) WWW. D Williams 5 11 9....

BOLD CLASSIC (68) (James R Adam) C Grant 4 10 8... IA CASTLE () M Devel P Hastern 4 10 8...

- 14 de - 14 courses -BETTRIC: 3-1 Carlin Brigants, 4-1 Foresons, 5-1 Calon Castie, 6-1 Fassas, 6-1 Millionic, 10-1 Monitor's Choice, 14-1 Qid Ryesh Wing, 18-1 others 1996: Our Robert 4 10 S F Lamy 50-1 U RoSpentity 22 cm

FORM CLADE

HONGCA'S CHOICE, all the better for a handsoe nue at Ayr a formaget ago, is tended to hands the soft

HORBICA'S CRIPICE, all the better for a handlesp nun at Ayr a formight ago, is tended to handle the sort ground better then Cartillo Rigigatio, one of eighen Lamb coloure actios for Paul Websiter at the meeting. Being a sin of Robellino, Cartillo Rigiganto has every classes of coping with the ground, but he did also it best on the Ret and his Westeld with less would were gained on their type of authors. A repressiver in a better more at Humpston less than, Cartillo Rigigation will be better for this return to two miles. The sec is redshing special, but Monico's Choice has worting form on the First and one jumps in solitain ground in lesiand and large Research's colours of one self on this course. Passeen has been in handlesps and a win today wouldn't be a complete supriss because he has been syling out for this type of ground. This not save about the worth of Foresterin's debut win at Ayr, while Chilan Castle woo plenty on send on the level and this synthemical or Monicolar the copy of t

2.30 ASKHAM BRYAN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000

_455

F Losby (3)

_R Comitiv

added 2m Penalty Value £2,460

Locan Wyer has a good ride in DURAND, who was been three largers by the useful What Hand here and wark on these 22 others in a novice on the course a week later. Penalised when a creditable that to Marejo and Nager's Lad (seep values such at Newcaste 11 days ago, Durano looks ready for itse, this handicap company. Merry Hermaid is a cert must have and as in with every ready for itse six into handicap company. Merry Hermaid is a cert must have and as in with every rises or after her recent second to Star Selection at Ayr. Bund Sable looks beatable at the velocities while Tales could be fancied on her issert showing but the mans is not for me under an amateur. The well-handicapped Rox Spannow will like the ground and two rans will need him put him right, but conditions may prove too testing for horseout George and Sunobelet. Our Robert won at this fature last year and has cating a formight ago will have sharpened him, up, while Alder is from a year gad-sale under 20 farm.

3.00 SICKLINGHALL NOVICES CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 1f Penalty Value £3,574

- 1.4 secureti - 1.4 Meterberg Set Sh. Muterberg Set Sh. Muterberg, Teles, 2 Meterberg Set Sh. 7-1 Our Robert, Teles, 2

98: Cursus Spaces 5 10 4 L Wyer 7-1 (T Easterby) 12 ran.

-er autromasco No Pain No Gain (4.00) has been sent 256 miles by J CWest Sessex: Chaireswan (6.00) has been sent 164 miles by M Tomp | Suffolk.

I'm Supposin may not have won many times last year but he did capture a Derby, even if it was the Ulster Harp handicap version at Down Royal.

There were also notable ef-forts in defeat, including a length and a half second to Pilsudski, the subsequent runnerup in the Arc and winner of the Breeders' Cup Turf, in a Group Three event at the Curragh. Perhaps most significantly of all he ran more frequently than an Eskimo's nose to prove his dura-

bility for a winter job.
I'm Supposin's National Hunt logbook may have limited entries, but Prendergast believes the five-year-old has already displayed what it takes to win at the Festival. "He's like Alderbrook because he just jumps for fun," the trainer said. He's only had two starts over jumps but he's already beaten the best novices here by seven

"And how many races do they need before they learn? I tell you they're either good at it or they're not. Schooling doesn't make them that much better because they either have a natural appetite for the game

Prendergast regrets his horse is moving on but, like all Irishmen, understands the sale as part of the sport's economics. The owner is the all-powerful man because he pays the bills," he said. "This was done for the betterment of the owner and the betterment of the horse."

David Brennan, I'm Supposin's former owner, could be said to be awash in betterment. His little horse is reported to have moved on for a price ecuted for drink driving as nosome way past the first six-fig-

Penalty Value £2,985

— 9 occurred — SETTHE: 11-4 Spritzer, 7-2 Daisty Diges, 5-1 Cherry Doe, 6-1 Lippy Louise, 6-1 Fantasy Line, Rafa A Dodar, 18-1 Poul: A Boo, 12-1 offices. 1996: Mes Optimist 6 10 11 R Johnson 10-11 (D Micholand) 16 rafi

SPYRIZER, DUDBERS by REGES PROTECTIONS AND ARREST THE COVER by 11 lengths. Sprizer tooks the answer body with Daisy Days penalsed for her Carlese was and staying over burdes after missing a chase engagement because of tad weather. In fact, Lippy Louise looks the type of late developer to reverse that Carlese form with Daisy Days on 7to because thems. Lippy Louise did ell her best work in the closing stages and looks bester than Farstasy Line, who was well bestern in a Ling-Selection: SPRIZER.

4.00 EAST KESWICK HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,300 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £4,403

- 6 decisied -Minimum weight: 10st. True handizes weight: Arite Wings Set 13b, Sallor Jim Set 12b. SETTRIS 9-4 Aljadesc, 3-1 Artic Wings, 4-1 No Pain No Gain, 9-2 Searchy Head, 5-1 Sallor Jim, 14

Aljadeer still looks on a decent mark despite the 5th parasity for his very smooth win from Ruscic Ariand Natherthy Said at Manter Resen last week. He was 7th better off with Netherthy Said for the decider sor-length besting on the same occase, but 1 would just be a little concerned about this solder ground. There are some well-hendloopped animals in opposition, notably Messar Boston and Beatry Head, but my suggistion is NO PAIN NO GAIN, who will live the ground and all the straper for his run against foo Plush on a faster surface at Sandown a fortright ago. No Pain No Gain was a useful type of mud-loving nonce last season with these wers and that Sandown nu will have put bin spot on. Artile Wings is in a stronger race after delying 12st at Falventium, but she is test and must be a rough riske to have won so often at Towacitor. Massor Boston Risks this course and, though the task tooler still select the layoff, he is well-weighand on his loss form and could not sweetly for Paul Carberry, who won on the stability Boston Man last week. Beachy Messar Boston in a display 12th for the latest found that to Whitepering Steel of Ay and meets Massier Boston in 30th better rame since their running on the course last season when Beachy Head was beaten 26 lengths. Sallor flus less found that season in Lord Gyllens and Masseurge. He can take some heating on his day over this trip, though his jumping can sometimes list him down.

4.30 HELMSLEY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,300 added 2m Penalty Value £4,305

FOSIAL SCHIOLE

This is a tricky little eace with Bold flows attempting to give many 1.7th to the programme MARBLE MAN
and 19th to Minumain Feaths, Body with George Moore after a speal with Martin Pipes, Bold Boss won a couple of small novices before suching into the clasty Chief Marister at Newcaste 11 days ago. Them was no
diagrace in the deletal at the weights and Bold Boss has a better chance today even with the weight, Marble Man Nex Regard Moore with old and Rev the ground at Carliste. He made heavy weather of it, but as
he was 7th out of the frenchizap he runs off the mance rating today. Marble Man had earlier spin subsequent
wereas Netherry Said and Algebrar at Market Resen so he mould just be in this handlaup on a decord mark.
Morrouge Forter has been on the Broot beloe since deed heaving with Madingfood at Cattenic. He came down
these out, when still in with a chance in Marble Martin stor at Carliste and he's owe 20 better off, Again in
touch when a failer at Nexessale 12 days ago, Morroale Forte could just be handlaepped by this softer
ground. Crossinch is only 3th out of the handlacep and gets a sizeable weight pull with Bold Boos eiter honounce soft.

5.00 MICKLETHWAITE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £2,793

- 4 declared
Minimum resignt: 10st. True handlage weighes: Crossfot Set 11st.

BETONC: 10-11 floid Boss, 3-1 Marble Mars, 7-2 Moussale Forts, 6-1 Crossbot.

1996: Cumbrian Challenge 7 12 0 L Wyer 11-4 (f D Easterby) 5 nm

Cross, 10-1 others. 1990: Trump 7 11 0 D Parker 24-1 (C Parker) 10 ton

ing Fifth' Hurdle at Newcastle in November.

9 decimed BETING: 7-2 Boston May, 4-1 Danbys Gorse, 9-2 Date of Porth, 5-1. All On, 7-1 Claim

Meleculm Jediescon's bang-in-form stable is represented by DMMEYS SORGE, who makes plenty of expent of 10st. The longer up is going to help the golding, who had his Towcester form boosted when No Moos Hagelie, who longer up is going to help the golding, who had his Towcester form boosted when No Moos Hagelie, who longer up is going to help the boost nim, woo a decort little handicap at Haydock lest Security. The ground was factor at Newcould next time when Darding Goos was basen by Samanic, but the est-

The ground was factor at Newcastle most time when Derbys Soves was beaten by Samanic, but the emphasis will be more on standard body and Derbys Goose is on the right sort of form to best Beaten Men to love! extend the standard has pereity putting him smaller on 10st. Paul Cabory less Bosson Men may been at beingt Raisen less week and the combination hept up the gallon to been Herncock with the next well seen oil. That was fairly continued the promise of his Hestiant that to Paperlang and Sambitists, and be is weighted to take some beating again with Carbory about. The others have a to do against two well readcapped deets, Jocks Cross-has been paided over twice about he has early with over three miles and 11st 10to body a subprior in this ground. Challeneous does not look good errough the 2 poor run at Plampium.

lessica Harrington will not discover until later this week whether Leop-

ardstown will rearrange its running order on Sunday to suit her Champion

Hurdle hope, Space Trucker. The trainer has asked the course to bring the Bannockstown Handicap Hurdle forward from its scheduled 4pm off-time,

so that her six-year-old will not have to race on ground charmed up in previous races. The manager of Leopardstown, Tom Burke, said yesterday. "There

is another scratching stage on Thursday and we won't decide before then." If he runs on Sunday, Space Brocker will be having his first outing since the Fight-

1850U-P MASTER BOSTON (130) (CO) (M X Oldham) R Woodhuusa 9 11 10

1996: Eastry Johan 8 10 8 P Niven 2-1 (S E Kessewsii) 6 ran



Sound Man: misses Queen Mother Champion Chase Photograph: Phil Smith/Sporting Life

Shoemaker sues hospital for \$50m

Bill Shoemaker, the world's most successful jockey with 8,883 career winners, has filed a \$50m (£31.4m) negligence suit against a hospital and eight doctors who treated him after car crash in 1991 which left him a quadraplegic.

Shoemaker, 65, claims that his injuries were ignored by the doctors in the hours after the crash, when he lost control of his vehicle which tumbled over an embankment in San Dimas. Shoemaker had a blood-alcohol level of 0.13% at the time of the crash, according to the Cali-fornia Highway Patrol. The legal limit to drive in California is 0.08%, but he was not prosone else was hurt and because of the severity of his injuries.

R McGrath (5)

HOECHST ROUSSEL PANACUR EBF MARES NOVICES HUR-

im 2.20 Killing Time 2.50 Brogeen Lady 3.20 Te Amo 3.50 Vicompt De Valmont 4.20 Tristram's Image 4.50 Lobster Cottage 5.20 D'Naan

GOING: Chase course - Good, Good to Soft in places.
Hurdle course - Good to Soft, Soft in a few places.

Elight-hand course, Ron-in of 170pds.

Reseccuse is south of town on \$33,70. Tauxion Railway Station is two miles away. ADMISSION: Members £11; Paddock £9; Centre of Course \$5. CAR PARK: Centre of estime \$8; der free.

SIS RIGHT

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Rory'm (3:20). VISORED FIRST TIME: Mich The Yank (2:20). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Killing Time (2:20) & Rare Spread (3.20) wan at Follestone last Wednesday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Drewitts Dancer (2.20) has been sent 162 tailes by T McGovern from Lewes, East Sussex; Strong Paladia (1.50) sent 141 miles by J Gifford from Findon, West States.

14 EAT TAUNTON NH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D)

| ᄩ | .50 | (DIV I) £3,500 added 2m 3f 110yds |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 2 | | COOL CAT (RE) J Tuck 6 11 4R Belleny |
| Į 2 | | DEFENOTHEREALM (37) R Prost 6 11 4 |
| 3 | 04-0 | DOUBLE ACHIEVENIENT (\$5) M Pice 7 11 4 |
| 4 | 6300-0 | FRED FUGGLES (19) C. lackeon 5 11 4 Burrows (5) |
| 5 | 00 | GRENATIC (29) N Havis 6 11 4 |
| 6 | 35 | MASTER PILERIM (26) G Baiding 5 11 4A P McCoy |
| 7 | | MOORELIGHT ESCAPADE (85) R Hodges 6 11 4 |
| | | T Describe (3) |
| 8 | 10/00 | SOUTHERWAY BOY (26) Mrs S Williams 6 11 4 |
| | | |
| | | |
| 9 | 0-4 | STRIKE A LIGHT 11251 Miss H Knoth 5 11 4 |
| 10 | 0-4 50-60 | STRIKE A UGHT (125) Miss H Kright 5 11 4 |
| | 50-60 | STRONG PALADIN (74) J Giford 6 11 4 L Aspell (3) |
| 10 | 50-60 60-05 | STRONG PALADEN (74) J Gliord 6 11 4 L Aspell (3) WALTER'S DESTRIY (12) C Machel 5 11 4 |
| 10 11 | 50-80 60-05 5-00 | STRONG PALADEN (74) J GRICH 6 11 4 |
| 10 11 12 | 50-50 60-05 5-00 64-35 | STROMO PALADRI (74) Gillord 6 11 4 |
| 19 12 13 13 | 50-50 60-05 5-00 64-35 | STRONG PALADEN (74) J GRICH 6 11 4 |

| BETTINE: 3-1 Defendtherests, 4-1 Strong Paladis, 6-1 Master Pilgits, 7-1 Strike A Light, 8-1 Double Achievement, Just Jassaine, 10-1 others |
|--|
| 2.20 PITMINSTER SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,375 added 2m 1f |
| 1 11/564 OCCOBER BREW (26) (D) M Ppe 7 12 0 A P McCoy B 2 41F360 MMSTER'S WADAM (16) (D) (6F) J Neale 6 11 11 A Bates (S) V |
| A Bates (S) V 3 350F00 DESIGNMENTION (28) M Pipe 5 11 9 |
| 6 4-15P01. KKLING TIME (7) (D) D Burchel 6 11 4 (7m) |
| 8 04-30000 SAAR (IRE) (6) R Baler 6 10 9 V Sattery B 9 008 BED PHANEOM (28) S Mellor 5 10 9 N Massa V 10 672/0U DREMITTS DANCER (7) T McGasen 10 10 8 D Bridgester |
| 11. 3P-25F8 AUCE'S MERGOR (13) (6) K Bishop 8 10 7 |
| 14 PASP-00 SECK THE YARK (13) H Olver 7 10 2 |
| - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 |

| i Minimum weight: 10st. Thie handicap weights: Pocono Knight 9st 13th, Ti . Times 9st 12th. |
|---|
| BETTING: 3-1 Miling Time, 4-1 Abuspa, 6-1 Denomination, 8-1 Draw Dancer, 12-1 Minster's Madam, 14-1 Va Utn, Alice's Mirror, 16-1 oth |
| |
| 2.50 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICE CHAS (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3 |
| (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3 |

| factors and for | | | (American) (Arrest A) training among an |
|-----------------|----|---------|--|
| 1 | 1 | 22-4142 | MR PLAYFULL (37) R Frost 7 11 3 Frost |
| ı | 2 | 0/146 | STRONG TARQUIN (99) (BF) P Nicholis 7 11 3D Bridgerate |
| ۱ | 3 | PP75 | BELLS WOOD (5) A Durn 8 10 10 |
| I | 4 | | BROWN ROBBER (27) Mrs R Henderson 9 10 10 R Parties |
| ŀ | 5 | | BULLANGUERO (70) H Howe 8 10 10 G Torme |
| ı | 6 | | CORNLETTE (354) N Henderson 7 10 10 |
| | 7 | | DRESS DANCE (18) N R Mitchell 7 10 10 Sophic Mitchell (5 |
| Į | В | | EREUS (5) 3 Work 7 10 10 |
| i | 9 | | FORCEROT ROMEO (20) C Brooks 7 10 10 |
| ł | 10 | | MONAN DELIGHT (14) M Poe 7 10 10C Mends |
| ۱ | 11 | | 115 CRAND (85) P Ritchers 8 10 10 |
| | 12 | OP- | REBEL PRIEST (376) C Egerton 7 10 10 |
| ۱ | 13 | 20-426 | SERGETEN LADY (11) D Gardoth 7 10 5 |
| 1 | | | ACTION IN CO. C. |

| E | 3.20 | CROCOMBE NOVICE HURDLE £3,200 added 3m 110yds | (CLASS |
|-----|---------|---|--------|
| 1 1 | 293201 | RARE SPREAD (7) M Pipe 7 11 11 WARNER FOR PLAYERS (14) P Hobbs 6 11 1 | AP# |
| l Z | 31-5451 | WHOLER FOR PLATERS (LA) P HOODS 6 11 1 | 1D01 |

WOLVERHAMPTON

2.10 Daring Flight 2.40 Jigsaw Boy 3.10 Clm Born Born 3.40 Secret Aly 4.10 Enchantina 4.40 Mono Lady

GOING: Standard.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Middle to high best for \$f to 7L

2.10 CAPRICORN MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO 1m 100yds

| | 04-25 | JOLLY JACKSON (32) R Mehuss 90 | |
|-----|-------|---|--|
| | | ONLY JOSH (19) Mrs J Rameden 9 0 | |
| | | RON'S ROUND (7) K Curningham-Brown 9 C | |
| | | VENTURE CONNECT (IAL) C Brooks 9 0 | |
| | | ISIS HONDA (B) (BF) C Settain 8 9 | |
| | | OCEGN LIGHT (121) A Bulley 8 9 | |
|) | | PERMINELL (14) R Johnson Houghon 89 | |
| | _ | - 10 decissed - | |
| and | - | Parlier State E.1 tally leaders Hardyne Fra | |

METRING: 8-4 Daring Filght, 5-1 Jusy Jackson, Venture Connect, 6 Nywell, inis Honda, 8-1 Allied Academy, 10-1 Only Josh, 20-1 ot

330250 DRAGOLUCY (89) (C) (D) N Uncreden 49 2 _D GAMBAs (S) 1 V 011131 SENSE OF PROBETY (S) (C) (D) D Nichols 8 8 11

him as stable jockey.

he, 8-1 Tanglefoot Taple, 12-1 othe

3.50 MITFORD SLADE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £5,000 added 4m 2f 110yds 1 131574 HEARLY SPLENDID (315) (CLS Steers 12 13 1

| 2 | D 540t.3 | ROSTY BRIDGE (1.6) Mrs S.Johnson 10 13 1 Mr R Buston (7) |
|---|----------|--|
| 3 | 62360-1 | VICOMPT DE WILMONT (24) P Nicholis 12 13 1 |
| | | |
| ٠ | 173 | AFTERWELLY (264) (CD) Mrs T Whee 12 12 5 Mr I Downlerk (7) |
| 5 | 3321 | ECPRESSMENT (275) 16ss A Rots 13 12 5 . Mr 8 Poutbit (7) |
| 5 | 565.573 | SENSAT (22) Mes T Basey 13 12 5 |
| 7 | | COMMA MOSS (FRE) D Brace 8 11 12 |
| 3 | P:3- | COLDEN MAC (855) R Faratime 10 11 12 |
| | | Make 0 Fluord (7) |

9 00 LAZZAREITO (1,485) I. Saurders 9 11 12 ... Mr 1 Johnson (1)
10 04-P MAJOR MAC (1/4) D Witterms 10 11 12 ... Mr 5 Dursch (7)
11 PU3-C/P. MESTY (NZ) (275) Mes C Gordon 20 11 12 ... MOSY WELCOME M Jorge 11 11 12 ... Mr M P Jones (7)
RESNG SAP (20) J Downes 7 11 12 ... Mr M P Jones (7)
FINAL EXPRESS (872) M Hoshare 9 11 7 . Miles S Vickery (7)
FINAL EXPRESS (872) M Hoshare 9 11 7 . Miles S Vickery (7)
FROCESS WENLYAM R Back 12 11 7 ... Mr A Holdmentin (7)

- 16 declared BETTMC: evens Vicompt De Valazont, 5-1 Expresement, 8-1 Coune Moss
10-1 Rusty Reidge, 12-1 Neesty Spiendid, 14-1 Afterleity, 16-1 others

4.20 TAUNTON NH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) (DIV II) £3,500 added 2m 3f 110yds O-OP AQUA AMBER (88) JM Bradley 5 11 4 R S No. O-OFP BOCZYS DREAM (89 N Thomson 6 11 4 S Bur 103-0 COLONEL BLAZER (68) Mes K Knigt 5 11 4 J C PS SRWY (13) G McCourt 7 11 4 D Bridge O MORIANDIC (59) P Hobbs 5 11 4 S T 6 T 0344-5P OUT FOR A DUCK (27) H Hayres 6 11 4 June 5 PROL MARM (1,0) M Pips 6 11 4 June 5 A STREE MYSTER H (12) C Detroit 6 11 4 June 6 M Hobbs MYSTER (13) C Detroit 6 11 4 June 6 M Hobbs MYSTER (12) C Detroit 6 11 4 June 6 M Hobbs MYSTER (12) C Detroit 6 11 4 June 6 M Hobbs MYSTER (12) C Detroit 6 11 4 June 6 M Hobbs MYSTER (12) C Detroit 6 11 4 June 6 M Hobbs MYSTER (12) C Detroit 6 11 4 June 6 M Hobbs MYSTER (12) C Detroit 6 11 4 June 6 M Hobbs MYSTER (12) C Detroit 6 11 4 June 6 M Hobbs MYSTER (12) C Detroit 6 11 4 June 6 M Hobbs MYSTER (12) C Detroit 6 11 4 June 6 M Hobbs MYSTER (12) C Detroit 6 11 4 June 6 M Hobbs MYSTER (12) C Detroit 6 11 4 June 6 M Hobbs MYSTER (12) C Detroit 6 11 4 June 6 M Hobbs MYSTER (12) C Detroit 6 11 4 June 6 M Hobbs MYSTER (12) C Detroit 6 11 4 June 6 M Hobbs M Hobbs MYSTER (12) C Detroit 6 11 4 June 6 M Hobbs M Hobbs M Hobbs M Hobbs M Hobbs M Hobbs M Hobbs

SETTING: 5-2 Star Mystery, 3-1 Tristrem's Image, 5-1 Storm Run, Atavis tic. 6-1 Colonel Bister, 14-1 Roll Astrin, 16-1 others.

| - | O-T CHECK | ich ceannet' war uner selleret' war dening |
|---|-------------|--|
| 3 | l.50 | SANNACOTT NOVICE HANDICAP CHAS (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 110yds |
| 1 | U1-F333 | LOBSTER COTTAGE (22) [D] K Balley 9 12 D., S Michiel |
| 2 | 175723 | MORDIC VALLEY (26) M Pos 6 11 13 |
| 3 | 11-FP22 | AFTER THE FOX (8) N Hawks 10 11 11 |
| 4 | 65-5134 | OLLIVER DOCKETT (16) (C) C Poptism 8 11 9 |
| 5 | 6-331UP | MORTHERN SINGER (U.S.) (D) (BP) R Houges 7 11 8 |
| | | T Descende (|
| 8 | 00-6100 | ROYESTAR (26) J long 6 11 8 C Maud |
| 7 | | REJKOWEN (33) A Turnel 7 11 7 |
| 8 | 5542FP | BOLD ACRE (19) J M Bradley 7 12 7S Wyene 1 |
| 9 | | DAMBICUS, (15) N Balthage 6 11 3V Statter |
| | | |

14 CO-41FR MASTER PANGLOSS (33) A Turnet 7 10 3.... = 24 uscarca = BETTEN2: 7-2 Nortic Valley, 4-1 Lobeter Cottage, 6-1 Rollowen, 7-1 Roves tar, 8-1 Other Duckett, 10-1 Northern Singler, Danzicus, 12-1 others

5.20 BLACKDOWN HILLS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2m 1f

| 1 | 36-03 <u>11</u> | ADDED DEAENSION (16) (D) P Winkworth 6 11 11 |
|----|-----------------|--|
| | | X Abper (7) |
| 2 | 320000 | PERSONN MYSTIC (80) D Winds 5 11 10 |
| 3 | | HANDSON (21) (CD) B R Malman 5 11 2 |
| 4 | | SENSO (279) (D) R Baker 8 11 1V Stattery |
| 5 | | D'HANN (12) (CD) (BF) M Pipe 4 11 (|
| 6 | 467-000 | ESTAGNIG (16) (D) S Nielter 7 10 11 |
| 7 | 09:24:63 | STEEL GEM (26) (BF) ? Rich 8 10 0 |
| 8 | 000 | RUNC SYMBOL (336) M Blanstard 6 10 0 D Gallagher |
| 9 | 460/07 | CONCENSITY (5) B Scient 8 10 0 |
| 10 | | DANTE'S RUBICON (135) N Aylife 5 10 0 |
| | | - 10 declared - |

n, 7-2 D'Rinno, 4-1 Handson, 7-1 Steel Gem

DRAW ADVANTAGES Minque to high neet, for 51 to 71.

STALLSE 71 & 1m61 - header remainder - outside.

Fibresand, left-hand, oval course.

Sacceourse is north of town on A449. Wolverhampton rail station in a ABMSSNION. (2mb 515; Public melcourse 56 (34 for CAP members of course's Diamond Cab – \$2.50 life membership). CAB

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Miss Charle (2.40).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE SUNNERS: Zacaroon (4.40) has been sen. 177
miles by J Pitch-Heyes from Lewes, East Surery, Barlequin Walk.
(4.40) has been sen. 176 miles by B O'Suffiran from Whitecombe, Pomer.

2.40 ARTES CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F)

3.10 TAURUS CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £7,325 added 7f

1 53011-2 COM BON BON (14) (CO) (SF) M Bet 5 9 4

- 3 declared -SETTRES: greens Defined Feature, 11-10 Cim Bom Bom, 8-1 Foot Bat-

3.40 LEO HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,325 added

1 031-313 SOUTH EASTERN FRED (21) (CD) H Collegates 6 10 0

120100 NEW CENTURY RISKI (186) D Nerolls 5 9 13 Mar Go 34/2310 BEND WAY (208) T Catalel 5 9 5 ______ A Culture 1 04:1023 SECOND COLOURS (USA) (7) (20) M Peo 7 9 4 ,0 Herison 3 00:60-2 SECRET ALY (CAR) (8) (3) C Brasin 7 9 1 _____ D Holland 4 1125-1 HEL FREN DANCER (28) (C) W Broome 6 9 0 _____ R Mullen (5) 7

- 8 declared -

BETTBO: 3-1 New Century, 7-2 South Eastern Fred, 5-1 Pater Nostno Secret Aly, 7-1 Second Colours, 8-1 Hill Farm Dencer, 18-1 others 4.10 AQUARTUS SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £3,000 added 3YO 57

421510 THREE ARCH SRADGE (S) (D) M Johnston 5 88_

40050-6 YEARSPER LOW (21) R Hollinghead 8.3 ______F (seeds 0.5)

- / December 7-4 Euchantina, 7-2 Ma Vielle Posique, 5-1 Will To Win, 6-1 Chill-ing, 7-1 Sanutae's Hophou, 10-1 College Princess, 12-1 Whisper Low

4.40 GEMINI FILLIES HANDICAP (CLASS E)

3312-60 Triff (FR) (28) J Posrce 4 10 0 ______ 6 Berderell 5 646-113 90000 LADY (30) (3) 0 Hoydn Jones 4 9 5 C Rotter 6 B 00-0512 Call ENDURA (13) (6) D Mothy 4 B 13 6 Center 1 900-31 ZACARDORI (40) (2) JJ Pi

SEXTEME: 7-4 Calendain, 3-1 Mono Lady, 9-2 Zaceroes, 8-1 Tart, Herio

Maguire kicked out of Festival

Queen Mother Champion

Chase in which he was a beat-

en favourite last year. Edward

O'Grady, his trainer, said yes-

terday: "Sound Man was lame

on his near-hind after exercise

on Sunday morning." Sound Man, who had been

quoted at 6-1 for the Chel-

tenham race by Ladbrokes,

was a modest third behind

Strong Promise and One Man

third Cheltenham Festival in a Richard Dupwoody's particirow after breaking his right pation at the Festival was also arm at Leicester yesterday. threatened by a fall in which he broke his sternum. He is, how-Maguire was kicked on the eround after taking a fall from ever, optimistic that he will be Foxwoods Valley in the novices' fit for the meeting. Also out of the Festival is chase. The three-day Festival begins a week on Tuesday. Sound Man, who will miss the

Maguire's wife, Sabrina, confirmed the extent of his injuries: "He has broken his humerus, the bone between his shoulder and elbow. It is a clean break, but he is in a lot of pain." Maguire was ruled out of last

year's Festival after breaking his collar-bone in a fall, while 12 months previously the death of his mother, Phyllis, forced the iockey to miss the meeting. On Saturday Maguire

at Ascot on his latest start. recorded a five-timer at Kemp-Ladbrokes have cut the price of last year's winner. Klairon Davis, from 9-4 to 15-8. ton which included successes on the Cheltenham-bound quartet of Sanmartino, Viking Flag-ship, L'Opera and Pharanear for David Nicholson, who retains

QUEEN MOTHER CHARPION CHASE: Ladbrukes: 15-8 KL aron Davis (from 9-4), 5-2 Vising Ragsing, 14-1 Arch: Krisman (16-1), 16-1 others.

RESULTS

CATTERICK

1.50: 1. CUMBRIAN MAESTRO IL Wyer 6-1: 2. Goopel Song 11-4 Chr. 3. Fire On toe 4-1: 34 rat. 8, 7. IT Easterly! Total E8-30: E.1-90. E.1-30. E2-80. DF £14-CO CSF: £22.44. The: £7.50. 2-20: 1. FREST IN THE FIELD IS Howestro 125-1; 2. Lumbrack Lady G-1: 3. Decorat Pou-ny 33-1: 15 mai. 5-1 (n. Best of At 60th. 2. 2 IN Mason. Total: F52-00. FR.90. £3-20. £4-30. DF: £148-70. CSF: £163.0R Treast: £4-528-60. Tern Novembrood of £128-11. 14.30 pr. 1.148.70. GSF: 1.168.08 FINSAUS FINSAUS 14.576.60.7 from Nor wor (paol of f.138.11 camed forward to Tearmon 4.50 today! 2.50: 1. TWMN FALLS U. C. daghoni 8-1: 2. Boberty Lan overs for 3. Kilifanily Boy 8-1.7 ram. 5, 13. (6 Moore). Todas £5.60. 2.30. £1.40. DF: £4.00. CSF: £14.19. Chummy's Saga 7-1; 3. Aritur Bee 9-1, 13 ran, 7-2 far Iverchem, 4, 10, tillis M Reveley, Total: £3.70; £2.10, £3.70, £4.10, DF. £21.90, CSF: £35.89, Incast: £265, 75, Inc.

121.90, CSF: £25.89, Incast: £265.79, Inc £222.40, 3.50: 1. PENINGTON (P Carberry) 11-4 far; 2. Rubber 6-1; 3. Cypross Avanne 20-1 13 mm, 11, 17, U Howard Johnson, Tobac £3.50; £1.90, £3.10, £4.10, OF: £13.80.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Our Robert (Wetherby 2.30) NB: Clairesw (Wetherby 5.00)

CSF: £19.24. Totast, £275.44. Tot: £67.60.

CSF: £19.24. Incast. £275.44. Trac: £67.60.
4.20: 1. WEAVER GEORGE (M. Makiney)
15-8 fav; 2. Mose Pageant 100-1; 3.
Nesstaal Prince 5-1. 5 ran. 7, 6. (M. Storey).
Tete: £3.20: £25.0, £17.60. DF: £29.30.
CSF: £48.58.
4.50: 1. SPRRT OF STEEL IR McCarthyl
7-1; 2. First. Light 11-4; 3. Jennie's Prospect 11-2, 12 ran. 5-2 fav Thunderpoint
(50). 4, 16. (I. Tatel. Tote: £4.30: £2.40, £1.60, £2.50. DF: £29.00. CSF: £25.38. NR: Buster Two. Trac: £126,70. Buster Two. Tho: £126,70, Jackpot: Not won (pool of £22,566.56 car Placepot: £91.80. Quadrot: £14.30. Place 6: £241.83. Place 6: £241.83. Place 6: £158.94

LEICESTER

2.40: 1. FARNEY GLEN (A Mag.ire) 3-1; 2. Respen Rock 9-1; 3. Simpson 5-4 fav. 8 mn. 5, 15. U J O'Nell, Penrith, Total: £4.20; £1.10, £3.10, £1.10. DF: £17.60 CSF: £28.40. Theast: £46.28. 3.10: 1. LANCE ARMSTRONG (D Forth)

11-8 fax; 2. Julekt Jones 3-1; 3. Dollless 16-1. 7 ran. 8, dist. (G McCourt). Yets: £2.40; £2.10, £2.80. DF; £5.70. CSF: £6.06. 3.40: 1. MASTER TORY CLIBNESHI 8-1: 2. Lively Knight 11-4 R fav. 3. Who is Equiname 11-4 R fav. 13 res. 1, 13. Who Invision-Davis, Totas 28.10; f.1.80, f.1.80, f.1.20, DF: £14.10, CSF: £27.83, Tro:

1.1.3.9.1.
4.10: 1. WILD WEST WIND IJ Caloby, 11-8:
2. Macgeorge 4 6 fav; 3. Gemma's Wager
25-1. 5 ma. 1:, clat. (Mas H Knight). Total:
22.50: £1.10, £1.40. DF: £1.50. CSF:
£2.53.

£2.53.
4.40: 1. SCOTTISM BAMER (J OSCOTTE) 5-1;
2. Chill Wind 100-30 Jt Lin; 3. Thats The
USe 100-30 Jt En; 8 ran. 4. 3. (P Webber,
Benburyl, Total: £6.20; £1.80, £1.10, £1.50.
DF: £15.80. CSF: £21.78. Tricast: £59.03.
Place & £4.05. Blace & £7.24.0

LINGFIELD

2.00: 1. AMADOUR (A McCarthy) 7-2: 2. Socjama 6-5 fac 3. Squire's Occasion 11-4. 5 rat. 14, 4. (P Mischell, Total 55.80; £5.80. £1.00, DF: £6.00, CSF: £7.41, 2,30; 1. GREATEST (D Hotand) 2. LIR Boy 11-4; 3. La Modiste 3-23.0: 1. GREATEST ID Pickerol. 5-4 fav;
2. LIR Boy 11-4; 3. La Modilista 3-1. 5 ran.
2. 3. (Mas Gay Relevary, Totar: £1.70; £1.40,
£1.10. 07: £2.80. CSF: £4.68.
3.00: 1. EFFECTIAL (D Hotard) 4-6 fav;
2. Stellar Line 13-8; 2. Scounds Legal 10-1.
5 ran. 9. 15. (Mass Gay Relevary), Totar: £2.00;
£1.10. £1.40. 07: £1.40. CSF: £1.99.
3.30: 1. TOP SHELF (D Holland) £00-30;
2. Hever Golf Charger 11-6; 2. Premier
6-5 fav. 3 ran. Nt. 17: (C Brutaris), Totar:
£3.90. DF: £6.10. CSF: £7.32.
4.00: 1. HEVER GOLF EAGLE (S Sanders)
12-12; 2. Zahid 4-1; 3. Charges 14-1, 10 ran.
2-1 tav Czarna. 1¼, 4. (T Naughton). Totar:
£12.70; £5.80. £1.20, £2.20. DF: £22.60.
4.30: 1. FORBOTTEN TIMES (N Carissie)
2-1 fav; 2. Nystary Marttham 5-2; 3. Tachycardia 5-1. 6 ran. ¼, 2%, (T Jones).
Totar £2.30; £1.20. £2.40. DF: £4.30. CSF:
£5.40. Totar £2.30; £1.20. £2.40. DF: £4.30. CSF:

40.
 5.00: 1 CAPTABN'S DAY (R Muller) 10-1;
 Batters Designter 5-1; 3. Howeverly 10-1. 10 res. 4-1 if the Sherzer (4th), 6: 2.
 HCOkengrigel, Tother £8.50; 53.90, 52.00, 52.70. 0F; £52.30. CSF; £58.78. Tno. 5132.00.

£127.90. Placepot: £81.40. Quadpot: £18.20. Place 6: £59.02. Place 5: £43.03.

Lorcan Wyer had his first win-

ner yesterday since shattering his face three months ago. The jockey - who spent eight and a half hours on the operating table in a Liverpool hospital having his face rebuilt after a fall from Thornton Gate - drove home Cumbrian Maestro to win by eight lengths at Catterick. ■ Dean McKeown was fined £200

by the stewards for not riding to his draw on Premier, last of three in the Livingstone Handicap at Lingfield yesterday. It was the jockey's third such offence in 12 months.



Cricket

Alan Mailally had a day long. Many search and a south to perform the performance of the New York and to the feet that making the characters of the training of the court of the court of New Ing. where I reduced were preparing to policy New Scioland in Indias therefore that me that had the is a control in fact bender cought or carries white column after a 45 mante struggle. the charical action backs

the I repland hotel in Noper, the design of her the term barbone. tendifica with hall placed to taken during the mp. And the ampleted their build tip to the first lest with a fifth the countries consequent and consequences of the countries of the countrie Artificial and translation Translation In the fact of the Search soring mesons the local side by 182 and in the 10th over of Trans variety prominen Sie Balter von

Harry were only two sand of substance for the home six furtherness the Iranada to time : Andrew Hall and ale Tannes are schoolby, Sa National Place put on Martle Agadin and Links of the State o ATA- Charles I best with an bounding of diana to some of the Long Blonds The Leave of captum Che Liston was a thomas enter the series of the the numbers. State of the World Kalayil whole

etti e dana dasindan je with a sect March will bein much earth I and the time across on Asthese pattings in the participal Baroger J. at the state of the exsitu tusi wa Showi **k**amp

yate Side Controller The A. A. Sterner, and North Manager

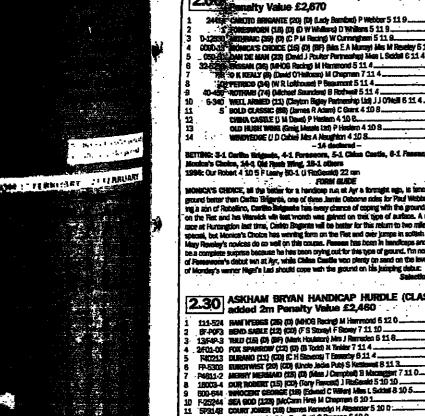












PROPERTY OF PROPERTY OF THE PR 4

SETTING: 4-5 Crown Equatory, 3-1 What's Your Story, 6-1 Crosic is King, Stack Brook, 12-1 Dee Light, 18-1 Dorin Castle, 50-1 Clarrothe Lacky. 1998: Perone Boy 7 11 10 A Dobba 4-7 (& Richards) 4 sen A tempty notice with WMMT'S YOURS STORY no containing to suit in a trouble-free round. But this burnier and hundres where will have the ground and gets the weight after a conditionce booster behind Gammai Pongo in a handcap as Uturister. Crosses Expeny glass best for Rad Cesterry — hance the reversed in form with man handcap as Uturister. Crosses here had be a progressive art. Crosses in things feel a change despite Series Consent or Carlete after kyr. He could be a progressive art. Crosses in the large feel a change despite for the progressive size in the debut with them Weight forther at Touccasses. Stack Berbal has booked a bit alone, but he with zonce into his own if the ground turne newly secting.

Saloutions: WHAT'S YOUR STORY

France do have a structure but it blossoms when they are given room to unleash their instinctive running skills

things are going swimmingly for must weigh up the opposition, England. We have two emphatic wins under our belt and, more especially, we are settling with this team. At the moment on a style of play which brings that period of sizing up takes out the best in the whole side. All the frustrations from the games before Christmas have been dispelled, replaced by a treated with even more circum-

new-found confidence. Much has been made of our inability to turn on this "style" until late on in the _ame. One need look no turther than the age of this team to see why. This

even soften them up, before delivering the killer blows, so it is that much longer.

Saturday will be no different, indeed the game will need to be spection. Scotland and Ireland presented a host of problems to overcome but France will be that much harder. All the planning in the world can never prepare you for the French at their best. Yes, they have some structure to

Half-way through the Five but also young in time together, how they play, but it really blos-Nations' Championship and Just as any sportsman or team soms when they are given their head, and the room, to unleast their natural, instinctive run-

> This has been apparent in passages of play against Ireland and Wales. A clearer example, however, is the much-vaunted performance of Brive against Leicester in the European Club final last mouth. The foundations were laid by the pack, but the icing was well and truly added by their backs. Incisive running, cutting angles on to the ball with pace to burn, a joy to watch if not to play against.



ONY UNDERWOOD

When deprived of the ball, or space, however, the French can blow up. In the semi-final. Leicester did this to Toulouse and you could quite clearly see all heart and drive go out of the Toulouse players as they became increasingly frustrated. England's approach in the

last decade, therefore, has been to minimise any opportunities for the French to play their nat-ural game. Loose kicks are anathema and the general pace of the game must be slowed down so they cannot enforce

their own tempo or movement.
This stranglehold extended even to the French psyche, to such an extent that during England's seven years of

dominance between 1988 and 1995 the French had more or less lost the game before they even took to the park. Then came the World Cup thandplace play-off in 1995, and best year, France finally beat England on European soil. After those two victories

they will be all the more dangerous, no longer constrained by any mental hang-ups and cager to replicate Brive's impressive win.

This will only add to the ex-pectation at Twickenham on Saturday. An unbeaten record has to go and one team's

rebuilding will be stalled, for a fortnight at least. Our supporters have been fed a glut of tries of late which they had begun to worry wouldn't arrive. They will hope for no less on Saturday and even more so against the French to prove that this English renaissance is no faise

France are a world force and masters of the running game and would be a huge scalp for this young side, especially if victory was achieved with the style of rugby we have shown so

Rusedski suffers from his inactivity

Tennis

Greg Rusedski, the British No 2 who has reached the finals of the last two hournaments he has played, was brought back to the game's realities when he was beaten by Sweden's Thomas Jahansson in the first round of the Advanta Championships in

Philadelphia vesterday. Rusedski, ranked No 35 in the world, came into the match having finished as runner-up to Goran Ivanisevic in Zagreh and Pete Sampras in San Jose. However, because of the wrist injury that forced him to retire during the final against Sampras, he had not played for a

The left-handed Rusedski. who was unable to take advantage of five service break point opportunities, was unable to hold his normally potent serve

on a slow indoor carpet court. Johansson, ranked No 65 in the world, was able to convert three of 11 service break charces Rusedski offered - in the ninth game of the first set. and the first and fifth games of the second set.

"This surface is pretty slow which is why I can return his serve here," said Johansson, a baseline specialist. "If Greg is serving well, I'd have no chance to break his serve."

Rusedski was one of four seeded players in action to lose, with only the third-seeded Paul surviving the first day. Haarhuis. ranked No 25, defeated Jiri Novak of Czech Republic 6-4. 1-6, 6-3,

Jason Stoltenberg, the veventh seed from Australia, playing in only his second event since having surgery on his right forearm in early January, suffered a 6-2, 6-4 loss to a qualifier. Sjeng Schalken of the Netherlands.

In Italy, Goran Ivanisevic. seemingly recovered from tendinitis in the shoulder which forced him out of the ATP tournament in Antwerp last week, began the defence of his Milan indoor title with a 7-6. 6-7, 6-2 victory against the Russian qualifier Andrei Olhovskiv.

The Croat took more risks and more time than expected to overcome his 30-year-old opponent. But Ivanisevic served us usuai m aces - 22.

Following a dubious line call and a double-fault in the third game of the second set, which cost him a break, the left-hander became erratic and lost the tie-break 7-2 after a streak of unforced errors. In the third set Ivanisevic broke twice to win the match in an hour and 42 minutes.

Academy shortlist reduced to three

Three contenders emerged vesterday as potential hosts of the proposed British Academy of Sport after a shortlist of 13 was reduced to bids from Sheffield, Upper Heyford and a Central Consortium based on Lough-

borough and Nottingham. A final decision is expected by April, but Labour's shadow minister for sport, Tom Pendry, immediately undermined the whole process by saying that, in the event of winning the election. his party could not guarantee to back any selection made.

Pendry accused the minister with responsibility for sport, lain Sproat, of having "ridden shod over all sensible opinion," adding: "As Labour has not been involved in the important decisions regarding the Acadelves to supporting a chosen bid. Instead we will instigate a thorough review of all proceedings and decisions involved."

In naming what is effectively the short shortlist for the Academy – the original choice of 26 was whittied down by half before Christmas - Sproat said the three "impressive" bids left have been chosen after detailed discussion between the United Kingdom Sports Coun-

cil and the Government. With remarkable synchronisation, all three bids said they were "absolutely delighted" to have seen off their 10 immediate rivals – Bath, Birmingham, Kent Thameside, Manchester, Merseyside, The Athletes Bid, (Herts), De Montfort University (Leics), Houghton Grange (Huntingdon), Sport City Foundation (Kettering) and UK

Academy 2000 (East Yorks).

Mike Rowbottom

reports on the front-runners in race for funding

ing facilities already in place, while the Upper Heyford bid, centred on the 140 acre site of the disused US Air Force airbase in the Cotswolds, and backed by the British Olympic Association, has a huge administrative centre ready made.

The bidding criteria for the Academy included provision for 18 key sports, including football, athletics, cricket, rugby, cycling, hockey and sailing. Up to £100m of lottery money is available for capital costs.

The concept of a central academy to support élite athletes in the 21st century was based on similar facilities already in place in countries such as France, Germany and Australia. But the original notion of a huge central facility has altered over the last year, and one of the Academy's key roles, according to the project co-ordinator, Roger Moreland, will be "monitoring and co-ordinating a sys-

tem of élite support." By that measure, the Upper Heyford bid appears well favoured, given the BOA's experience in liaising with indi-

vidual governing bodies. Last summer the BOA canvassed 33 governing bodies over their hopes for an academy. "Based on that information" a spokeswoman said: "We have pulled together what we feel is a very, very strong bid. Americans being Americans, they don't do things by halves and the Of the three final contenders, majority of the buildings on site two - the Central Consortium are in superb condition. All and Sheffield - have large sport- sporting facilities will be built as

new." The bid is likely to require betwee £80m and £90m of lottery oney which will be match to by the bidders with £75m ×rd £80m.

Sheffield's bid is likely to require £68m in capital costs. Some £150m has aiready been spent on facilities such as the Don Valley Athletic Stadium, the Sheffield Arena and Ponds Forge swimming pool. "We be-lieve we have got a head start."

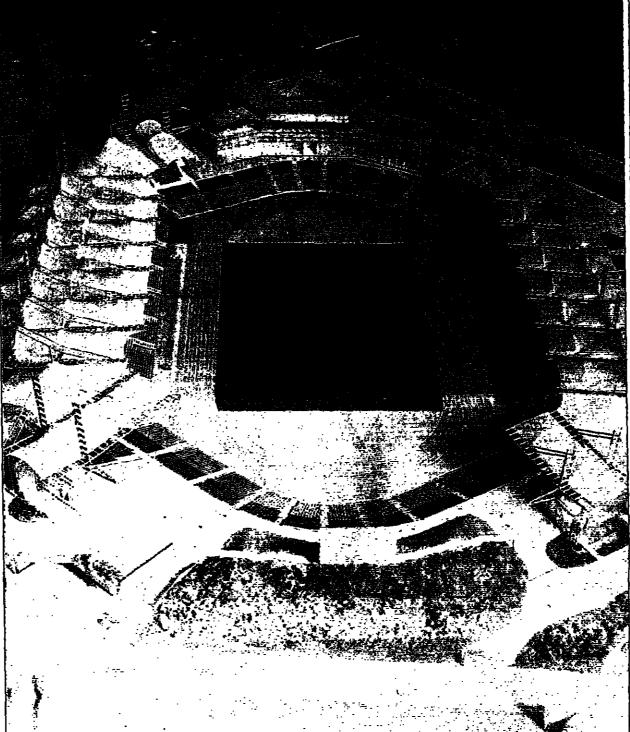
their spokesman said."
The Sheffield bidders have also been encouraged by the re-cent award of £12m Sports Council grant - the biggest single grant in its history - towards a national ice centre next to Sheffield Arena.

The Central Consortium are basing their hopes on a bid which draws on established sporting facilities including Loughborough University, the University of Nottingham the Queen's Medical Centre, the National Sailing and Canoeing centre at Holme Pierrepont, and Lilleshall, home to the Football Association school of excellence and British gymnastics.

We have got existing facilities and expertise," a spokesman said. "But we are not just looking at giving them a lick of paint, we are planning a £150m development."

Once the site of the Academy bas been established plans go ahead to create a network of regional centres and facilities dedicated to specific sports, or elements of athletes' support such as biomechanics.

Those bids, which have missed out on securing the academy, such as Manchester, Birmingham and Sports City Foundation, have been en couraged to tender for one of the smaller centres.



Model arena on the shortlist: How the British Academy of Sport would look at the Don Valley Stadium in Sheffield

Welch offered chance to revive his career

Boxing

Scott Welch will have the chance to put last month's World Boxing Organisation heavyweight title setback behind him this summer.

The Brighton fighter, who hardly got out of first gear before losing on a wide points margin in his challenge for Henry Akinwande's title in Nashville, has been nominated to meet the world-rated Croat Zeljko Mavrovic for the Euro-

Being promoted by Frank Warren under his Sky television deal, Welch is counting on home advantage to secure a victory which could help him right a lot of the wrongs of the Akinwande defeat.

However, the European Boxing Union is not in a hurry to get the fight on. The EBU has called for private negotiations between promoters to be completed by 15 May, but the fight is more likely to go out to purse offers after that deadline. The German-based Mavrovic, who is trained by the Londoner Darkie Smith, will be looking for a British hat-trick af"I don't really care where it

is, but close to home would be on, Angel Mona, in five rounds nice. I'm at that level now where I've just got to go in there and win," Welch said. "I watched the Francis fight. Mavrovic is unbeaten and I definitely won't make the mistake of underestimating him.

But I think it's a fight I can win. meantime, I'm not sure," he "My credibility has taken a battering after the Akinwande fight and I don't want it to get worse by fighting burns. I don't want to get involved in any hype; just to go out there and get the

Welch has clearly learned a lesson from the Akinwande fight, in which he waged a war or words, a mind game which was completely out of character and simply did not work. He may take a 10-rounder in eac-May, and a fight this year against the South African former International Boxing Federation champion, François Botha, has not been ruled out,

Billy Schwer, the former British lightweight champion has been nominated to meet the EBU title holder, Manuel Fernandes, of Spain. Schwer and his

ter his stoppages of Clifton manager, Mickey Duff, were at Mitchell and Julius Francis. ringside to see Fernandes stop ringside to see Fernandes stop the French defending champi

> in Paris on Saturday. Schwer has long been waiting for a European title fight, but accepts that it could take six months at least to set up a fight against Fernandes. "I might have a warm-up fight in the said. "Fernandes is a good puncher, is young and has plenty of energy. He stopped Mona. but was out of his feet in the third round. It's just good to get a title chance. It's been a bit frustrating in the last few months." Jose Bonilla, of Venezuela, easily retained his World Boxing Association flyweight title when he stopped Japan's Hiroki loka yesterday. The American referée, Rafael Ramos, stopped the fight after 2min 49sec of the seventh round in Osaka with the challenger helpless against the ropes. Bonilla floored loka in the second round to take control of the fight. Bonilla, who

S Africa pick **Du Plessis**

Rugby Union

The South African Rugby Football Union has turned to Carel du Plessis to replace the disgraced Andre Markgraaff as oringbok coach.

Described in his playing days as the "prince of wings", Du Plessis, 36, thus becomes the youngest coach in Springbok history. He has the dual responsibility of leading his country through 13 internationals this vear, as well as healing some of the game's self-inflicted wounds. Markgraaff resigned last week after a secret tape record-ing was published of a conversation in which he made racist remarks against black sports

The former Western Province and Springbok winger unrelated to South Africa's World Cup winning manager Morne du Plessis - retired at the age of 29 as sporting isolation imited his career to just 12 Tests between 1982 and 1989. Second Division Moseley have signed the winger Gavin

Houlston from the South African province Transvaal. Houlston, 23, holds a British passport and will be able to play as an English-qualified

Tait returns for Scotland as new coach after nine-year absence

Alan Tait will complete his attack and defence. I think he journey from rugby league back to union when he lines up for Scotland against Ireland at Murrayfield on Saturday and returns to the Five Nations'

Championship after a nine-

year absence. The 32-year-old Newcastle player wins his ninth cap in the team named yesterday. This follows his inclusion in the provisional Lions squad of 62 for the summer tour of South Africa. Rob Wainwright is anxious that Tait does not have to carry the burden of Scottish expectation. "Tait's experience in league will be important to us," the Scotland captáin said. "But we're not

looking for some messiah, as the Welsh possibly viewed their returning league players." Tait returned to union this season with Newcastle to be nearer to his family in Scotland, a decision which brought to an end a league career in which be was capped 14 times by Great Britain during spells with

Widnes and Leeds. David Johnston, Scotland's backs coach, is optimistic that Tait can lift the Scots following their defeats by Wales and England. "Tait is confident both in

will improve the performance of

the side." he said. "We didn't perform as well as we might have in the last two Test matches. Against England we had a different blend and it simply didn't function. We now believe we have a combination

that will perform." Tait, who won his eight pre-vious caps between 1987 and 1988, will form a new centre partnership with Gregor Townsend "Hopefully I can help Gregor to perform," Tait said after learning of his selec-tion. The mercurial Townsend switches from stand-off to inside centre, the position he occupied

against Wales and Italy. Craig Chalmers regains the No 10 jersey after being dropped for the England game and the other change in the backs is at right wing, where Tony Stanger returns to what many see as his best position in place of Derek Stark after playing centre at Twickenham.

Despite their poor showing against England, the forwards are retained en bloc, although there has been a positional switch in the back row. Scotland's coach, Richie Dixon, felt that the

pack performed more than creditably against England. "Considering they were heavily outweighed, they were solid in the scrums and went well in the line-out. This group definitely deserved another chance," he said.

The positional alteration sees the captain, Rob Wainwright, and Peter Walton switch positions. Wainwright will line up on the blind side, where he used to play, while Walton will be at No 8 in an international for the first time but Dixon insisted: "I

UOII I See that as a gamble.
SCOTLAND (v Ireland, Five Nations' Clinings orasis, Murrayfield, J. Marit R Shughard (Marrayfield, J. Marit Resound). A Tale (Marcaste). C Castiness (Marrayfield, Register (String Cot. C Castiness (Marrayfield, Register). M Stowart Northergaton). G Waler (Mencaster). A Resed (Wingon). R Wellerstyller, I (Marrayfield, A Resed (Wingon). R Wellerstyller, I (Marrayfield, Pharrayfield, Pharr

The Ireland prop Nick Popplewell said yesterday that he was struggling to recover from a hamstring injury in time to play for Ireland against Scotland on Saturday. Popplewell pulled a hamstring when playing for Newcastle against Leicester in the Pilkington Cup at the weekend and was unable to take any part in an Irish squad training

session on Monday.

PORTINS LEAGUE Presider Divisions: Blackburn (7.0); Menchester Utd y Not Forest (7.0); Alt Bury FC). First Division Villa y Wolverhampton (7.0); not Medical

vrite v Wolsenhampton (7.0), Frest bivisions As, vrite v Wolsenhampton (7.0), test bivisions As, vrite v Wolsenhampton (7.0); Preston v Hudderste (7.0), Second Divisions Hull v Wresham (7.0), York v Burnley (7.0). Divid Divisions Rocheste v Bury (7.0), Lengtie Cup Group Gne: Oldforn v Carlisin (7.0). Group Tree: Scartborough v Bradbor (7.0). Group Fear: Scartborough v Bradbor (7.0).

European Cup to change format for '97

The pool stages of the European Cup will be played on a home and away basis next season - rather than one-off games - with the number of teams from each country remaining the same. England, France and Wales will each have four representatives. Ireland and Scotland three each and Italy one.

cided by a play-off between Italy's second nomination and Romania's champion club. The 20 teams will be solit into five pools of four with the winners of each going through to the quarter-finals. The remaining quarter-finalists will be drawn from three matches played between the five runners-up and

The final place will be de-

the best third-placed team. The format for the European Conference has yet to be decided, but the tournament will continue and matches will be played on some, or all, of the weekends devoted to Euro-

pean Cup games. The Rugby Football Union have responded in a calm manner to criticism from Orrell's. chairman Ron Pimblett, that his club's amendments before the special general meeting on 9 March had not been circulated.

"This appears to be a blatant attempt by RFU committees to disenfranchise the membership and remove the democratic process," Pimblett said.

But the RFU denied the charges last night. "We would submit the RFU has acted efficiently and promptly," a statement said.

Orrell, firm supporters of the executive committee chairman, Cliff Brittle, want guaranteed powers for the chairman of the management board under the new structure,

The Swansea coach, Mike Ruddock, is considering a three-year contract with the Leinster provincial team. Ruddock's wife is Irish and he joined the Welsh club after a spell with Bective Rangers.

FA Carling Premiership 1 Riackburn v Sunderland. 2 Derty v Chelsea

4 Leeds v West Ham Man United v Coventry 6 Newcastle v Southampton ... 7 Shaffield Wed v Middle 8 Tottenham v Notim Forest Playing Sunday: Aston Villa v Liverpool. Playing Monday: Covenay v Wimbledon

First Division 10 Bradford v Man City. 11 Grimsby v Birmingham 13 Oxford Utd v Crystal Palace 14 Port Vale v Reading . 15 Portsmouth v Sheffield Utd. 16 OPR v Oldham.

nvide League

WEEKEND AND POOLS FORECAST 17 Southend v Barnsley 18 Swindon v Charlton

19 Wolves v loswich . Playing Friday: Tranmere v Stoke. Play-ing Sunday: Bolton v West Brom Second Division 20 Bournemouth v Shre 21 Bristol Rovers v Walsali ...

23 Milwall v Wycombe 24 Notes County v Brentford 25 Peterborough v Chesterfield 27 Preston v Bury. 29 Watford v Bristol City . 3d. York v Luton ...

Third Division

32 Cartiste v Lincoln

33 Danlington v Brighton ...

34 Futham y Chester 35 Hartlepool v Scunthorpe 36 Hereford v Easter. 37 Hull v Northampton . 38 Leyton Orlent v Barne

took the title from Thailand's

San Ploenchit last November,

improved his record to 22 wins,

including 11 knock-outs, against

39 Mansfield v Cambridge Also playing (not on coupons): Fochdale v Torquay. Playing Friday: Colchester v Scarborough, Doncaster v Wigan. Playing Sunday: Swanses v Cardiff. **Bell's Scottish League**

Premier Division 40 Aberdeen v Rangers 41. Celtoc v Hearts 42 Dundee United v Dunfermline. 43 Hibernian v Mognerweil 44 Raith v Kilmamock First Division 45 Fact Fife v Dundae

46 Fatkrk v St Mirren .

47 Morton v Stirling Albion 49 St Johnstone v Clydebank Also playing (not on coupons) Second Division: Ay v Berwck, Clyde v Queen of the South, Dumbarton v Brechm; Livingston v Hamilton, Stenhousemuk v Stanner, Taind Division: Arboath v East Strling, Inverness Caledonian Thisde v Allos, Montrose v Ross County, Queen's Park v Forfar, Playing Friday: Alloin v Covidenbeath.

Four draws: Eventon v Arsenal, Bradford y v Manchester City, Hibernia rell, Falkirk v St Mirren. Five aways: Chelsea, Brentford, Rangers, Dundee. Ten homes: Leeds, Manchest Newcastle, Porsmouth, Woke Warderes, Crawe, Fulhern, Celo United St. Indiana.

Football 7.30 tables stated FA CUP FIFTH ROUND Darby v Covenby (7.45) FIFTH-ROUND REPLAY COCA-GOLA CUP SEMI-FINAL FIRST LEG Studiopert y Middleshro

FA CARLING PREMIERS NATIONWIDE POOTBALL LEAGUE ion v Birmingham (7,46). TEMENTS SCOTTISH CUP FOURTH-ROLLING REPLAY Celtic v Hibernian (7.45) Livingston v Bro

TODAY'S FIXTURES DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: No

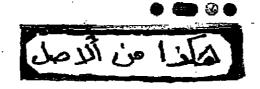
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> NORTHERN COUNTIES BAST LEAGUE Pre-mier Division: Density Linked v Livenedge, League Cap Fourth round; Brigg Town v Gleeghoughton Wel. SOM EASTERN COUNTIES LEACUE Premier door Schem v Fekenham; Stourneriet v Wis-

SH CUP Quarter final replay: Compran v

i v Brisingon. Onlead Kent League Piret Dhesion: LINGUET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE John Office

AVON DESURANCE COMBINATION First Obs-cion: Brighton Oxford Ud (2.0); Carolli v Swarmes, (2.0); Issawch' v Crystal Palete (7.15) (at Port-man Road); Norwich v Bristol (2ty. Rugby Union
WELSH NATIONAL LE
Llaress y Cardiff (7.0). CLUB MATCHES: Cambridge Unity V Penglans (7.15); Orrell v Mendoza (Arg. (7.15) CIS UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP Micharda Pinet: Warwsishire v Notts, Linco & Denne (7.30) (at Rugby).

Baskethell EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS Russia (7.45) (at Guidtord



Moment of truth for Olazabal

Andy Farrell reports from Dubai on a master's return after a crippling disease

The figure on the practice range at the Emirates club, arcing beautifully struck iron shots towards the palm trees at the far end. looked reassuringly familiar. Passers-by nodded to each other: "Looks the same to me,"

The only clue that Jose Maria Olazabal had been away from the tournament scene since September 1995 was in the white plastic chair next to his golf bag which his manager. Sergio Gomez, gave up for his client's brief rests. Everyone in the United Arab Emirates is united in their anticipation and expectation of how the Spaniard will perform in the Dubai Desert Classic.

"I'm maybe anxious, but not nervous," Olazabal said. "A little bit excited as well." What galled about the Spaniard's enforced absence was that he never lost the talent in his hands that made him the US Masters champion, at 28, in 1994. He just could not walk, nor, at its worst, stand for more than 10 minutes.

"It was just too painful," he said. At the beginning of 1995, Olazabal, who had been noticeably limping for some time. had a section of the big toe on his right foot removed. The discomfort continued and after the Lancôme Trophy that year, when ranked ninth in the world, he withdrew from the Ryder Cup team and disappeared from public view.

Experts in Spain and the United States diagnosed rheumatoid arthritis, a genetic condition for which there is no proven cure. Comeback deadlines came and went, interview requests declined. He worked on a course design project in Andorra, and sat at home listening to Tina Turner and Joe Cocker and watching sport on television. The golf was the worst. "You realised how hurt you were and that you might not play golf again. That was maybe

the toughest part. he said. While in Munich last Sepizabal met Dr l Feelgood", as he is known to the well.

likes of Boris Becker and Linford Christie, diagnosed a biomechanical problem that could be treated with exercise and physiotherapy. "Since I went to see him, although I am not yet 100 per cent, everything has improved without setbacks," Olazabal said.

"Just being here is a blessing," he added. "I still feel it a bit in my feet, especially at the end of a round, but the pain is bearable. My main target now is to forget about the last 18 months. This week is to see how I cope with the daily demands of a tournament. After so long, I have to be realistic.

Olazabal, who today plays 18 holes for the seventh day running in the pro-am, plans to reassess at the end of the week, which he clearly hopes will be on Sunday rather than Friday. "I am very pleased to see him walking properly and to me, it looks like he is 100 per cent right," said his compatriot Seve Ballesteros.

Ballesteros, the Ryder Cup captain, is not alone is hoping that Olazabal approaches top form in September, even if it would further complicate his wild card plans for the Cup defence. It is a crowded field: Ian Woosnam and Bernhard Langer have work to do to qualify; Nick Faldo probably has to win a major to do so, and Jesper Parnevik, who has had four top-five finishes in America already this year, cannot even attempt to do so because he is not a member of the European Tour.

"What can I do? I ask for four wild cards and they say only two," Seve said, rehashing the old argument at length. Again, it was clear that his ideas do not coincide with those of the Ryder Cup Committee. Disingenuously, he added: "You all look so worried about this. Keep calm, the tournament is still nine months away." It is a worry, and the Ryder Cup is only seven months away.

Sam Torrance yesterday pulled out of the Dubai Desert Wilhelm Muller-Wohlfahrt, "Dr a row, because his wife is un-



Schmeichel wants to clear his name

Football

A move by the Football Association to defuse the continuing feud between Peter Schmeichel and Ian Wright could be under threat following the news that the Manchester United goalkeeper is taking legal advice in a bid to clear his reputation of the racist allegations generated by the row.

The FA chief executive, Graham Kelly, revealed at the weekend that he was ready to act as

Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea man-ager, yesterday laughed off

the suggestion that he had purposely fired up Leicester City before today's FA Cup

fifth-round replay by main-taining. "I was only telling the

The Stamford Bridge side ap-

peared to be cruising into the

ast eight after goals from

Roberto Di Matteo and Mark

Hughes, But Leicester hit back

after the break, Steve Walsh

hauling them back into con-

tention before Eddie Newton

put through his own goal two

Gullit's response was to

brand Leicester "lucky", saying the long-ball Midlanders had

created nothing, made only two

set-piece chances, and he was

very comfortable" about going

through to claim a trip to

The Leicester manager. Martin O'Neill, was furious at

Gullit's claims, and the captain,

Walsh, continued the criticism

minutes from time.

peacemaker following last Wednesday's disgraceful scenes at Highbury when the Arsenal striker Wright confronted Schmeichel as they left the pitch following United's 2-1 win.

when Schmeichel was alleged to have made a racist remark to Wright when the two teams met at Old Trafford in November, an incident which is still being investigated by the police, and boiled over again when Wright committed a two-foot-

yesterday. "I could understand their disappointment at not winning, but there was no rea-

son at all for their manager to have a go at us for the way we played," Walsh said.

But the complaints from the

Leicester camp brought no

climbdown from Gullit, with the Dutchman standing by

his remarks. "I don't worry

to upset them. I just said what

happened. It was a fact, and I

don't know why they have to be

doubts - Frode Grodas, Andy

Myers, and possibly even the player-manager himself are

on standby - O'Neill wel-comes back the suspended

quartet Neil Lennon, Emile

Heskey, Muzzy bzzet and Matt

No club punishment

for supporters' fight

While Gullit has his injury

back Dan Petrescu.

upset about it."

Gullit unrepentant

week's equally explosive gange Both the FA and Professional Footballers' Association have made buts to bring the two players together, although Kel-ly insisted that such a move would not free either man from The war of words began the threat of disciplinary

charges over the incident. But the Old Trafford director and club solicitor. Maurice Watkin, confirmed vesterday. "Reports that Peter is taking ingal advice are true. But which than to confirm that, I don't want to make any further confment on the matter at this

stage."
Schmeichel clearly wants to clear his name, but his move wwards legal redress could scupper the peace plan even though both United and Arsenal have not yet rejected the Lancaster Gate initiative.

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, is reported to have said: "Ohviously we are aware of the proposals for a meeting but this is a very delicate situation and we will follow the advice given to

about what I said, because I didn't lie," said Gullit, who has His Arsenal counterpart. Arsene Wenger, said: "I think it is major doubts over goalkeeper Kevin Hitchcock and winga very good idea and would en-"What I said wasn't designed

courage the FA in this." However, with Schmeiche! now exploring other avenues. the dispute could now be heading for the courtroom rathe:

than the negotiating table.

Jimmy Gabriel has ended his 37-year association with Everton as player, coach and caretaker manager. Gabriel, who won League and FA Cup medals during his 300 appearances for the club, is to leave Everton to pursue a coaching career in the United States.

Injury-hit Boro to welcome back Emerson

Emerson will return to the Middlesbrough side for their Coca-Cola Cup semi-final first leg at Stockport tonight after completing a two-match ban.

However, Boro will be without his fellow Brazilian Juninho as he will be playing in a friendly international against

Defenders Derek Whyte and Phil Whelan are also ruled out Vickers is doubtful with a head injury sustained during Saturday's 1-0 defeat by Newcastle. Nigel Pearson is on standby after recovering from a neck injury which at one time

atened to end his career. Stockport's Lee Todd has been given a Coca-Cola Cup reprieve by this season's new disciplinary code after starting a two-match ban in County's 2-1 defeat at Blackpool on Satur-

Only the fact that the Football League deemed at the start of the season that suspensions accrued in League and FA Cup matches would no longer apply in the Coca-Cola Cup has saved the 24-year-old full-back from missing out on the biggest match of his career so far and he will once again take up his berth on the left flank with the versatile Tony Dinning set to re-

A meeting between Football Association officials and local police appears to have eased any fear of punishment for either Leicester or Chelsea over fighting between their fans.

Trouble broke out in a corner of the main stand at Filbert Street during the first half of their FA Cup fifth-round tie 11 days ago after visiting supporters apparently infiltrated an

But the match, which will be replayed at Stamford Bridge tonight following a 2-2 draw, was held up for less than a minute and Leicester security staff were praised for their prompt action.

Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said: "We have had a meeting with Leicester and their local police at Filbert Street and written to Chelsea as well. As things stand, we are satisfied with how the situation was

The FA will, however, investigate an incident at Birmingham in which a missile was thrown at a linesman during their FA Cup tie against Wrexham.

A report by the referee Mar-tin Bodenham has been passed on to the club, who have been asked by the FA to give details of their crowd-control arrangements before deciding whether Birmingham took all reasonable steps to ensure safety.

Mick Jones, Plymouth Argyle's caretaker-manager, is to be offered the manager's job. Jones will succeed Neil Warnock, who was sacked three

wecks ago. Celtic and Hearts face being fined unless their poor disciplinary records improve. The Scottish FA's disciplinary committee have sent letters of warning to the two Premier Division Arbroath, East Stirling and

Cowdenbeath. John Ebbrell appears likely to end a 10-year association with Everton and team up with his former manager, Howard Kendall. Ebbrell had talks with Sheffield United last night with a view to a £1m move which might preclude an Everton bid for Leeds

United's Carlton Palmer. Hungarian international midfield player Peter Lipcsei has joined Sheffield Wednesday on trial from Porto. Linesei has more than two years left on his contract with the Portuguese club and is likely to cost a substantial amount if Wednesday try to sign him.

3

Uefa, the game's European governing body, said yesterday that 60 club sides from 33 countries would compete in this year's InterToto Cup. England. Italy and Spain have declined to take part.

LTA MEN'S INDOOR SATELLITE MASTERS

Resignation adds to Wigan's troubles

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

The resignation of a director in a row over where Wigan will play has exposed a further rift at a troubled club. John Martin has quit after four years on the hoard, accusing his fellow directors of back-tracking on a deal with Dave Whelan, the chairman of the Third Division football club, Wigan Athletic, to redevelop their Central Park ground.

Martin yesterday called on the remaining three directors to

Jimmy White's determination to

recover his status in the world

rankings was clear again yes-

terday as he reached the last 16

of the European Open in

White heat the 19-year-old

Welshman Matthew Stevens

5-1, a match he could easily have

lost during his depressing slide down the rankings. His run to

the quarter-finals of the recent

International Open at Aberdeen

not only halted his decline, but

belped begin his climb back to

party to what is happening," he said.

Martin, a close friend of Whelan, backs the plan under which the multi-millionaire would buy Central Park for £4m, spend £11m on rebuilding and move his football club

A meeting of shareholders in January also voted over-

across town to share it.

whelmingly for that option, rejecting alternative plans for a new ground in Wigan or moving in with Bolton Wanderers at their new stadium in Horwich But the Wigan chairman, resign as well. 'I cannot be Jack Robinson, now says that

> recognised in the updated rankings published yesterday which shows him up to 25th

> from 36, although he began the

1996-97 campaign in 13th

al more rungs of the ladder, and a win against Scotland's John Higgins today could see him

knocking on the door of the top

portant to me," said the 34-year-

old Londoner, the European

Open winner in 1992 following

"Ranking points are all im-

His victory over Stevens should see him jump up severdecision.

"It was a consensus that committed the directors to trying to pursue the Dave Whelan option, if it was viable," he said. But if the terms of the lease were unfavourable, it would be a dereliction of duty for the di-

rectors to agree to it." Robinson said the remaining directors were concerned that the Whelan deal would leave the club short of working capital and earning capacity.

"We have to look at other options," he said. That would mean selling Central Park to

the board cannot be tied to that Tesco, whose offer stands at traumas at Wigan, which have in-£8.75m, and building a new cluded the departure of the footstadium - "along the lines of Middlesbrough's new ground with 30,000 seats," said Robinson - and moving temporarily

Not so familiar sight of Jose Maria Olazabal yesterday Photograph: David Cannon/Allsport

to Bolton until it is ready. four or five people putting in £400,000 or £500,000 each. In the meantime, he wants back the £250,000 he has invested in the club. A further complication is that he runs the profitable Riverside Club at the

ground. This is the latest in a series of

coach, Graeme West, as well as the sale of players such as Scott Quinnell and Va'aiga Tuigamala. The club remains more than Martin has proposed a re- £3m in debt and Robinson apfinancing that would involve pears in court next month,

ball manager, Joe Lydon, and the

charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice. Charges against Martin, who was arrested with him, were

The BBC is to televise the Challenge Cup quarter-final between Warrington and Salford on 8 March.

ond Division: Bradford City 1 Shrewsbury 0 (abendoned 30 min); Mansfield 2 Rotherham

Prize money for the Volvo Masters, the final event of the European Tour season, has been increased by £100,000 to £1m. This year's event from October 30 to November 2 will be played at the Jack Nicklaus-designed Monte-castillo course, Spalm, Volvo also an-nounced increased prize money of £100,000 to £1.1m for the British PGA championship at Wentworth In May,

Mon Pickersgil, president of the All Eng-land Women's Hockey Association, has been nominated as chairman to head the new English Hockey Associ-ation for its first year following the recent death of Tory White. Robin Elliott, the HA Presdent, is being proposed as vice-charman. The recommendation from the Steering Group will be put to meetings of the HA and AEWHA early set month.

ice hockey MHL: Degroit 5 Pricerts 3; Wastungton 3 Boston 3 (cd).

> TODAY'S NUMBER

£237

The increase in the most expensive Chelsea season ticket - from £650, to £887 next season. Currently, the most expensive Premiership season ticket is Wimbledon's £680; by companson, the most expensive at the San Siro stadium in Milan is around £700,

Arantia Sanchez Vicarlo, the Spanish

Aratha Senchez Vicarlo, the Spanish No 1, has appointed her brother Emilio as her new cosech in an attempt to resumed her services and help her to challenge Steffi Graf and Martins Hings. To be No 1 again I need someone who knows me," Sanchez Vicario sald. Emilio Senchez, who takes over from the Austrakan Meryin Rose, will continue to play on the men's circuit despite his new role.

MEN'S MEN'S MEN'S MOOOR TOURNAMENT First round: C Plotine (Pr) bit O Camporese (t) 4-6 6-4 8-1; A Boetsch (Pr) bit K Alami (Mor) 6-2 6-2. M Marrell on) bit M Goetiner (Ger) 2-6 6-4 6-4.

SNOW REPORT - in association with Thomas Cook Ski Direct

M Les (68) 6-7 6-3 6-4.
WIA 1080 16-7 6-3 6-4.
WIA 1080 RANKINGS: 1 S Graf 16er:
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ne (12 Rep.) 3318, 4412; 4 A Sandhez Vicano
(50) 3302-6871: 5 C Marinez (50) 3010.6719;
6 M Soles (US) 2931-8083; 7 A Huther (6or)
12571-1088; 8 L Deserport (US) 2440-5667;
9 I Mejoli (10 ro) 2110-2820; 10 K Habeucoei (Shoale) 2022-1782; 11 I Synthes (Porn
2002-7950; 12 M Perce (7o. 1564-8196; 13
A Costor (SA) 1586-7009; 14 M J Fernande;
105) 1542-5113; 15 J Witesper (Aut)
1533-5810; 18 B Paulus (Aut) 1527-2913;
17 B Schulcz-McCarthy (Neb) 1410-8799; 18
K PO (US) 1377-0647; 19 S Appelmans (Bel1359-6050; 20 E Likhovtseva (Rus)
1154-2240.

a 9-3 triumph over Mark John-White's resurgence was ston-Allen in Belgium.

White climbs world rankings

position.

20 again.

ice hockey

Cardiff Devils, the new Superleague champions, have protested about their schedule for the title play-offs which begin this

The Devils are annoyed that they will be faced with three sets of back-to-back games, twice after bus journeys which will take them the length of the

Cardiff open at Newcastle Cobras on Saturday, then face It doesn't seem fair. Ayr the following night after the ital. The following weekend they are at home to Manchester Storm on the Saturday be-

Travel schedule angers Cardiff trip to Ayr for a match less than

24 hours later. Cardiff's programme ends with a home game against New-castle on 12 March before another journey the next day to play at Manchester. They receive a welcome rest on the

final weekend. "We have got to get the fix-tures changed," Paul Heavey, the Cardiff coach, said. "We win the league and end up being given the worst possible schedule.

"We know you have to accept long trek back to the Welsh capital. The following weekend geographical differences, but we are being punished for something that is not our fault and will fore undergoing the even longer be contacting the Superleague."

Athletics

Athletes who break world records at the world outdoor championships in Athens this year will earn \$100,000 (£63,000). this year will earn \$10,000 (200,000) (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000) (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000) (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000) (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000) (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000) (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000) (200,000 (200,000 (200,000 (200,000) (200,000 (200,000) (200,000) (200,000 (200,000) (200,000 (200,000) (200, Basketbali

RBA: Orlando 93 Detroit 84; Adamp 106 Gold-en State 100: Chicago 116 Portland 89; Char-lotte 96 San Antonio 84. EASTERN CONFERENCE ATLANTIC DIVISION Boston CENTRAL DIVISION

PACIFIC DIVISION

Bobsleigh

Bobsleigh
Four-Man World CUP (Nagano, Japan)
1 USA 18 Stymer, C Mirston, R Jones, R Ossen) 1mn 45.75sec (first nin 52.71sec, second run 53.04; 2 Germany II ID Wiese, C
Bartsch, T Weber, M Lykmeer 1-46.02
152.99, 53.03; 3 France 1 IB Mingson, E
Hostache, E Le Charony, M Robert 1-46.03
152.96, 53.14; 5 Lamary, La6.10
152.96, 53.14; 5 Lamary 1-46.10
152.96, 53.14; 5 Lamary 1-46.11
152.97, 53.14); 6 Itany 1 (S Huse, E Bojars, A Pluteria, J Bishas 1-46.11 (52.97,
53.14); 6 Itany 1 (S Huber, A Tartaglia, M Rotta,
M Menchan) 1-46.35 (52.89, 53.26); 7 = Germeny I W Hoppe, U Heischer, R Harmemann,
C Embach 1-46.23 (52.96, 53.27); Conda I (P Lueders, S Wiscman, D ve MacEachem, J Pyc) 1-48.23 (53.14, 53.09); 9 USA

SPORTING DIGEST

5.24 (52.90, 53.34); 10 Austria I (H lesser, G Habermueller, E Arnold, M letzenauer) 1:46.27 (53.15, 53.12). Schliebergory I No.27 (1915) 53-15, 53-15, World Cop positions (after six of seven races): 1 M Rohner (Swi) 1780s; 2 W Hoppe (Ger) 187; 3 D Wiese (Ger) 187; 4 G Huber (I) 168; 3 D Wiese (Ger) 187; 4 S Phuse (Ger) 187; 7 H Schoesser (Aut) 128; 8 S Pruss (Let 124; 9 J Herberich (US) 121; 10 H Cauto) (Ger) 119.

W L Pd 68 .38 15 .717 -.36 19 .655 3 .27 27 .500 114. .18 34 .346 194. .17 39 .304 22% .13 41 .241 .254. .11 47 .190 .29% 38 15 .717 -38 16 .704 % 29 27 .518 10% 24 30 .444 14% 22 29 .431 15 20 33 .377 18 20 36 .267 18%

ond Divisions. Accomplished 2 Routement A. Otter matches posponed. Aron Insurance Combinations First Division: Creises 1 Portsmoth 2. Other matches posponed. Spanish League: Valencie 2 (Leandro 14, Enange 68) Compostals 1 (Penev pen 12).

Devon, the Minor Countles champions, are hoping Peter Roebuck can lead them are hoping Peter Roebuck can lead them to an unpracedented fourth successive championship after the former Somer-

as captain for the formouting sessions.

RED STRIPE CUP (final day of four): The Valley, Anguilla: Leoward Islands 168 and 236 (K L.Y Arthurbor 95; C A Dovis 5-43); Windowshi Islands 189 and 203 U R Murzly 52). Leoward Islands won by two rims. Port of Spain: Trivided and Tobago 305 and 204 for 9 dec (M V Nagamotto 4-59); Guyana 241 and 3 for 0 uzint. Match drawn. Cycling TOUR DE LANGKAWI Seventh stage (124 miles, Bentong to Kutentan, Maloy): 1 F McCarmack. (US) 4ft 41min 25sec; 2 G Kenper (Neth): 3 A Tail (IV): 4 G Miler (NZ): 5 C Andersen (Den): 6 A Aug (Fin): 7 J Tarmer (GB) all same turns, Overall standings; 1 L Schron (IV) 18hr 14min 56sec; 2 J Volgt (Aust +2min 24sec; 3 A EB (II) +2:28; 4 A Lecth (IV) +2:31.

Football

FRANCE (Friendly international v the Netherlands, Pero dee Princes, Paris, to-day): Lama; Thuram, Blanc, Desaily, Lzaszu; Nanembeu, Lagle, Wells, Ba; Zdane, Dugar-

PNOSLEIGH FOOTBALL LEAGUE First Divi-sion: Postponed: Crystal Polace v Reading. SCOTTISH LEAGUE Third Divisions: Post-poned: Ross County v Queen's Park. ICIS LEAGUE, Premier Divisions Postponed: Octor City v Erifeld, Octor City v Endeld,
MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Carling Premicrobig: West Ham 4 Totterham 3. Dr
Mertons League Premier Divisious Chelmstors City 3 Holesomen Town 0. Unifload
League Leaffile First Division Cup third
round: Ashton Utd 4 Netherfield 4. Foderation Brisway Northern League First Division
RTM Newcastic 4 Easington 1. Leis
League First Division: Posporact Bognor
Rogs v Mauderinaed. Pontins League Soc-

turn to the bench.

EUROPEAN OPEN (Valetta, Malka) First round: N Bond (Engl bt R Lawler (Engl 5-3; 1 Bitch (Engl bt O Harold (Engl 5-1; 1 White (Engl bt M Stevens (Wal) 5-1; 5 Handry (Soo) bt J Burnett (Soo) 5-1; K Dahenry (tri) bt R Mikins (Engl 5-3).

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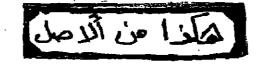
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Rowell quick to defend players' qualities

Rugby Union

CHRIS HEWETT

Jack Rowell stopped short of openly criticising Fran Cotton's initial Lions selection yesterday, but the England coach dropped enough hints to suggest that he was not remotely amused by the omission of his cotire three-quarter line. Will Carling omitted himself, of course, but Rowell made a strong point of speaking up for the others.
The failure of Phil de

Glanville, Jon Sleightholme and Tony Underwood to make Cotton's preliminary party of 62 caused so much fuss last week that Rowell, who has fielded more than his fair share of flak in recent months, must have felt grateful to the selectors for taking their turn in the firing line. Yesterday, however, it was time to put his head above the parapet once again.

Rowell's heartfelt defence of De Glanville's contribution as England captain was particularly pointed. "I'm not saying Phil is any better or worse a player than John Dawes was, but he's our equivalent." he asserted. A choice of comparison could not have been more loaded for Dawes, often under-valued as a centre by his own Welsh countrymen, left an indelible mark on the world game as captain of the legendary Lions who overcame New Zealand in 1971.

"What is important for all three players is that they perform well for England," continued Rowell. "That is the best way forward to a Lions place this summer. Knowing the three as I do, I think the events



Practice makes perfect: The England players get to grips with their scrum machine during yesterday's training session at Bisham Abbey

rugby I've ever seen from him in Ireland 11 days ago and while I haven't discussed the Lions with him or anyone else, I know they'll give even more than usual against France."

Worryingly, De Glanville and four colleagues were still hamof the last week will make them pered by injury yesterday and with similar ailments. Simon

more determined. Tony Under- will require treatment before wood played the best game of Saturday's Five Nations confrontation at Twickenham. The captain, struggling with ankle problems sustained during Bath's weekend victory at Bristol, was joined on the casualty list by Martin Johnson, the Leicester lock, and Richard Hill, the Saracens flanker, both

Shaw, the Bristol second row, and Mike Catt, the reserve outside-half from Bath, also complained of shoulder and calf conditions respectively.

Although Hill and Catt were unable to take any part in yesterday's session - the other three just about coped with light duties - Rowell was confident of fielding his selected

side against the French. "People tend to get themselves up for an England match, especially one of this magnitude," he said.

The French are always dangerous, frightening even, particularly when they get their fluent multi-handling game going. It seems to me that Jean-Claude Skrela and Pierre Villepreux, have relaunched the side with their coaching. They do not appear to be as constrained mentally as they have been in previous years and if we are not at our best, we could find

ourselves leaking points." Aware of the most recent taunts aimed at England - that they are either incapable of, or unwilling to, play fast, adventurous rugby without spending that amongst ourselves. I know

the first hour of a match squeezing the breath from the opposition - Rowell confirmed that he would be seeking early We need to perform with the

progress on Saturday.

We need to settle more quickly and play more accurately," he said. "We started scrappily against the Irish, and we have already talked about we can be untitly and give things away. If you do that against the French you are playing with fire.

meanness of the best New

Photograph: David Ashdown

Zealand sides." If England can live up to that demand against the Tricolores, a Grand Slam will be theirs for

Operation puts Shearer out for a mon

United winning their first major trophy since 1969 - which have always seemed entwined with Alan Shearer's fitness and form – were placed in serious jeopardy yesterday when the England striker underwent an operation on his groin.

The most optimistic estimate for his return is a month, by which time Newcastle's assault

The prospects of Newcastle an operation on the injury in eight months, suggesting a longer lay-off may be necessary

for a proper cure. Even if he emulates his extraordinarily quick recuperation of last autumn, he will miss both legs of the Uefa Cup quarterfinal against Monaco and five League matches, including the potentially decisive away matches at Liverpool and Wimbledon.

"Anyone watching Alan play lately would agree that he has not been the Alan Shearer Newcastle fans know and love," Graham Courtney, a club spokesman, said. "He's been struggling with the injury and now he's had an operation to rectify the problem. We look forward to having him back as quickly as possible."

Shearer, who cost Newcastle a world-record £15m when they

on the Premiership and the He must also be rated ex- bought him from Blackburn last chester United on 20 October.

He missed England's 2-0 win in Georgia in a World Cup qualifier and six Newcastle games, only two of which were won, before returning to action in the 1-1 draw at Chelsea on 23 November. Since then, Shearer has scored 15 goals in 18 games, taking his tally for the season to 23 and reviving Newcastle's title pean Championship finals. He recovered to play a key role, but the surgery was only a tempo-

rary success. Certainly the England coach. Glenn Hoddle, suggested yes-terday that all has not been well with his principal striker for some time when he admitted the latest operation had been inevitable. "I've been aware of the problem and there's no doubt want him back as soon as possible. It's the third operation of its sort that he's had and we'll be hoping for as speedy a recovery as on the previous occasions.

Shearer played in the 1-0 win at Middlesbrough on Saturday which lifted Newcastle to third place, six points adrift of leaders Manchester United with a game in hand. He had a quiet had offered odds of 500-1 at the start of the season. Shearer's absence means the

partnership with his fellow England striker, Les Ferdinand, has been disrupted again. They have scored 41 goals between them this season, including seven in Newcastle's last four games, but one or both has been missing for

In the past, Faustino Aspril-

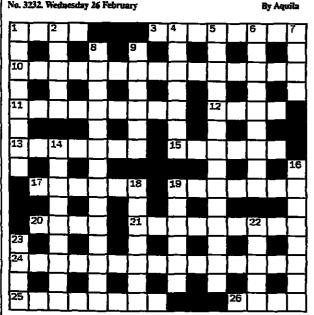
That operation followed an- that it needed to be dealt with," to get a goal ended his hopes of la has filled the void, although Uefa Cup could have been de- tremely doubtful for England's summer, was out of action for just other last May, which at one he said. "Alan has kept me in- scoring against all 19 Premier- he was dropped for Saturday's railed. More worryingly, this is friendly against Mexico at over a month after surgery in the time threatened his place in the formed of his plans over recent ship opponents this season, a match and is suspended for the third time Shearer has had Wembley on 29 March. wake of the 5-0 defeat of Man
England squad for the Euro
days and Kenny Dalglish and 1 feat for which the bookmakers Tuesday's home tie-against Monaco, Instead, Dalglish may recall Peter Beardsley, who has been relegated to the substitutes' bench for Newcastle's

> lust two matches. Dalglish's attacking options have been reduced by the sale of Darren Huckerby to Coventry shortly before Kevin Kregan's departure and that of Paul Kit-

son to West Ham two weeks ago.

More football, page 27

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- No baked beans in this hel-Strong-scented plant, always rare after first of February (8) 10 Long-standing stone or long standing stone (7,8) 11 First inside safe boundary (9)
- 12 Disadvantage of allow expressed symbolically (4) 13 Short trips go wrong attended by sandstorm (7)
- 15 Calls some of this group non- 5 est (6) 17 Type to leave Arromanches
- uch architectural features? (6) 19 Of course, he is marking
- cards (7) 20 Grass border plant opening
- (4) 21 Line essential to score? (9) 24 Celebration in which heavers lift vast yield (7,8)

Album Road, Warford

25 French article camouflaged but exposed (8)
26 Tone-lowering character in apartment (4)

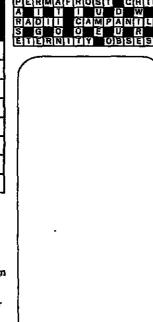
> **DOWN** Trudges about to find foreign pastries (8)

Horse always in front? (5) For example, return journey can be something to boost one's own image (3,4) Coats put on in stormy, moist cninsula (8.6) Release mole – he can do as

be pleases (4,5) Accompanying unexpected (4) Schäler, whose line came

on this planet (4-5)

from Alsace? (6,8) Human figures lose energy, standing (6) Element not widely known



16 Small burn right inside pam-

phlet (8)
18 Is it superior to a Border Ter-19 Medicine to make one com-

petent in race (6)
22 One is struck with a name almost abandoned (5) 23 Cream bun, dear? (4)

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Pearce uncertain in new Forest regime

JON CULLEY

Nottingham Forest began life under new owners yesterday amid fresh uncertainty over the future of their player-manager,

Stuart Pearce. The 34-year-old England player was expected to reveal plans to spend a £16m transfer fund following Monday's sale of the club to a consortium headed by the Saracens owner, Nigel Wray, and the former Tottenham chairman, Irving Scholar. But at a low-key press con-

ference at the City Ground, the new regime failed to deliver firm backing for the man who stepped into the breach when Frank Clark resigned in December. Pearce even suggested he might stand down himself if it would help Forest avoid relegation from the Premiership.

Property developer Wray, the main financial muscle behind the £19.1m offer which shareholders voted overwhelmingly to accept on Monday evening, was back at his desk in the City yesterday, leaving the new chief executive, Phil Soar, to take charge at Forest.

Scholar, who took a 16 per cent stake in the club with Wray holding 27 per cent, was at the news conference but sat away from the platform, where Pearce was flanked by Soar and the incumbent chairman, Irving Korn. With no opening address from Soar - and no endorsement of Pearce's position as manager - it was left to Pearce to do most of the talking. The message that came across was that neither he nor his new employers are sure about his role in Forest's future.

"There were one or two issues raised concerning my future and we talked about the possi-

right and we learned a lot about each other," Pearce said. bility of having a general manager. It is difficult to combine all of the things I have to do at the moment, including playing for England.

Mr Scholar was very forth-

"I was probably put in the position prematurely. In other circumstances, if anyone had asked me if I wanted to be manager of Nottingham Forest I would have said, 'yes, when I've finished playing.

Pearce has told the new own ers he will continue until the end of the season but hinted he could stand down before then. "I'm happy to go along with whatever is going to be for the benefit of the club," he said, "If I felt that stepping down as manager and just carrying on as a player would help us stay in the Premiership I would do so without hesitation.

There was no tub-thumping about buying new players, despite Forest's plight in the bot-



who has been asked to advise tom three of the Premiership and the club as football consultant. with the transfer deadline just with the transfer deadline just three weeks away. Soar said privately he would be relying on Scholar to help in transfer dealings and Pearce admitted it was part of the job he did not relish. "Sometimes the financial business can keep you away from the training pitch and that's where I enjoy being," he said. "We are on a learning curve really. If it be that someone else deals with other clubs we will do that."

The new owners won control on Monday, when they received the backing of 189 of Forest's 202 active shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting. While no one imagines that

Wray, reputed to have made £60m from property and media deals, does not see Forest as an investment, the involvement of Soar probably appeared those who wanted to see the management retain a local flavour. Although he lives in Berkshire, the 49-year-old author and publishing executive was brought up in Bilborough, on the city's outskirts, and has been watching Forest since he was nine. As a season ticket holder he has many friends at the club.

Scholar returns to football six vears after selling Tottenham to Alan Sugar for a reported £8m. He and Soar have known one another since the mid-1980s. when Soar was engaged to write Tottenham's official history. He pioneered football's entry into the Stock Market, floating Tottenham long before even Manchester United could see the benefits of such a move.

Forest's new owners plan to float this year, joining a pro-cession of clubs attempting to cash in on the windfalls to be made in the City. Forest in £50m flotation

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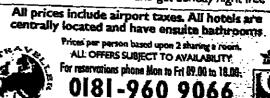
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